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9 January 1980

# Sub-Saharan Africa Report

No. 2196



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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

JOURNALISTS DESCRIBE SITUATION ON HORN OF AFRICA

Somalia Returning to Normal

Paris DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE in French 19 Nov 79 pp 50-55

[Article by Mireille Duteil: "The Horn of Africa"]

[Text] Africa and the entire world too often forget: Cannons are still thundering on the Horn of Africa. Having returned from Addis Ababa and Mogadiscio, Mireille Duteil presents to us the new face of Ethiopia. The revolution has quieted down after bloody years of internal dissensions. In the Ogaden, a Liberation Front keeps 15,000 Cubans in a state of alert. Somalia, which has not fully recovered from its conflict with Ethiopia, is struggling with post-war political and economic problems. Bernard Couret explains to us how, despite the continuation of the fighting, life is getting back to normal in the Eritrean province.

For the visitor who has been absent from Somalia for several months, the atmosphere in Mogadiscio has changed quite a bit. One feels a certain relaxation there which is a pleasant surprise. A kind of breeze of freedom, of "democratization," it is said here, is blowing on the Somali capital. The white city, with half-African, half-Arab smells and colors, seems to be awakening from a long sleep. The secret people of the extreme Horn of Africa are beginning to live like anyone else. They no longer pretend to ignore the stranger passing through and even open their doors to him at times. "Our ideological choice has not changed. We are and will continue to be socialists. What is more, that is in line with our ancestral style of nomadic life, based on helping one another." The reserved Somali intellectual who made this profession of faith to me stands up with a flash in his eye. In his office, an incessant coming and going breaks the customary studious atmosphere which is evidenced by files and books stacked on shelves. Someone circumspectly brings in large white and blue posters, the colors of Somalia, and places them on chairs and couches. The fact is that I had walked into the middle of preparations for the celebration of the 10th

anniversary of the coming to power of President Siad Barre. On that day, 21 October, students had paraded behind these posters for hours before 400 guests from all over the world.

Political authorities and leaders of rank and file organizations had been feverishly preparing for this event for weeks. Buildings covered with scrawled messages recalling the fight of the liberation movements in the Ogaden and reviling Ethiopian imperialism had been whitewashed. Large varicolored panels erected in the most frequented places of the city sang the praises of the Somali revolution; however, on the posters there was neither hammer nor sickle. The editorial of the English language weekly, HEEGAN, reported the progress made in 10 years of revolution but in a moderate tone. References to the "scientific" character of the socialism lauded by the government are increasingly rare. It is in this new climate that the military government is providing itself with institutions. On 25 August 1979, the Somali by referendum approved a new Constitution consecrating the preeminence of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP) over all the other decision-making centers. In a few months, they will be called on to elect deputies to the constituent assembly.

Marked by the traumatism of its defeat in the Ogaden, abandoned by the East, regarded with suspicion by the West, Somalia is trying to find itself. These last 2 years have been difficult. Supporters of the former government, dispossessed of their privileges since 1969, have begun to lift their heads again. It was easy for them to attribute responsibility for the defeat to the bad choice of Siad Barre's government--which had taken Moscow as its privileged ally--since the USSR had abandoned Somalia for Ethiopia.

None of that would have happened, they claim, had an alliance been made with the Americans and Saudis. By favoring deals and corruption, by aggravating the economic difficulties, by rendering even more indispensable the aid of sponsors with Arab funds, to buy arms in particular, the war forced the "hardliners" [durs] in the government to make concessions. And the middleclass business sector, whose affairs are flourishing, find in the pro-Arab and pro-West sector of those in government unexpected support. For example, several businessmen are making quick and tidy fortunes by using the foreign exchange of the some 200,000 Somali who work abroad, particularly in the gulf countries and Saudi Arabia. Some businessmen buy the products which they import into Somalia with this foreign exchange. There, they reimburse the families of the emigres with shillings at a rate of exchange higher than the official rate. Everyone profits from this practice, the importer, emigre...and state which in this way prevents foreign exchange from leaving the country for the purchase of consumer goods. And that is why, during these hard times, just after the war, the shops of the principal Somali cities are stocked with rather dear current consumer products, while the first dozens of Somali millionaires are appearing. In 1978, this subtle, quasi-legalized traffic under the name of "franco valuta," totaled 475 million shillings, representing 20 percent of Somali imports.

Although no one has taken it into his head to extol the multiparty system and everyone says that he wishes to operate within the framework of the single existing party, the struggle among different factions is nonetheless intense. On the heights of Mogadiscio, in party headquarters, a large, airy and functional building, Richard Aden Sheik, who is responsible for the ideological orientation of the SRSP, is positive: "I am ready to lead a relentless fight against all those who would attempt to favor a return to misappropriations of funds and ideological deviations which gave birth to this middle-class." A brilliant surgeon who was educated in Italy, he abandoned the hospital for politics. He is one of the government's intellectuals. "The establishment of the party, the war, then the constitutional referendum and now the legislative elections have lead some persons to believe that we were going to return to the system of the previous government; however, I am convinced that the institutions can provide a base for the exercise of an authority which will not fall into the errors of the previous government and will permit real democratization, but within the single party framework."

For all those who hold this view, the problem is not one of foreign alliances. No one is sorry about the Soviet Union, as the interests of the states do not coincide. The principal task is to assure continuation of socialist policy which has permitted Somalia to provide schooling for a large number of children, establish free medical care, settle the nomads and make them farmers and, finally, to assure minimum subsistence to everyone in this country whose per capita revenue is one of the lowest in the world. Today, a tough struggle is taking place between clans which up to now coexisted in the halls of authority. Who will win out? It is difficult to say for the moment. But the unanimous opinion is that the president will prevail.

However, there is one important unknown: the army. It was said that the army is divided. In fact, we can believe that the reorganization of the command structure of the army which took place after the coup d'etat in April 1978 permitted President Siad Barre to protect his rear. For the time being, "the Old Man," as he is called familiarly here, remains impenetrable. In his sixties, of average build and with a bit of a pouch which gives him the reassuring and venerable air of a patriarch, the chief of state readily receives visitors, but quite late at night.

He received me at 0100 hours in the modest livingroom of his small house buried in the garden of the Villa Somalia, the office of the presidency of the republic. Ranging from pragmatism to cunning, Siad Barre has dominated the Somali political scene for 10 years. His policies reflect quite faithfully the influences to which Somalia is being subjected. Attached to traditional Islamic culture, he allies himself, however, with a modernized ideology of the socialist kind. "Keeping in mind what my country is, I cannot conceive of establishing orthodox scientific socialism here," he told us. And he added, "We have managed to reconcile religion

and scientific socialism because that suits the Somali. Why would we not succeed in reconciling a socialist policy line with an economy by making an appeal to the national and international private sector? Our problem is to lift the country out of poverty. In the foreign policy sector, we observe an identical attitude with regard to the big powers; and we have enmity toward no one."

Is this a Somali version of the "Yugoslav solution"? Somali intellectuals seem to be attracted by the formula. Nevertheless, a question comes to mind. Account taken of its needs, both in the financial and economic and military aid sectors, does Somalia have complete freedom of choice in domestic policy? In Mogadiscio, the question is embarrassing.

For the moment, in any event, the "socialist" clan and that of the "Saudis" are confronting each other; and even if Siad Barre succeeds in assuring a harmonious balance among all the factions, Somalia has urgent problems to be resolved. In the first place, there is the problem of the some 600,000 refugees, including 330,000 who, at the end of September, were assembled in 21 camps. Every day, 500 new refugees arrive. The inhabitants continue to flee from the Ogaden, Bale and Sidamo. In Mogadiscio, the first persons with napalm burns reached the hospitals a year ago. On 11 October, the minister of foreign affairs met with the ambassadors stationed in Mogadiscio. From October 1979 until the end of December 1980, Somalia and the United Nations high commissioner will need \$71.6 million to provide aid to the refugees.

In a country which cannot from its own resources feed its 3.5 million inhabitants, 600,000 additional mouths are a catastrophe, all the more so because the Saudis no longer loosen their purse strings so easily as in the past. In 1977, of the 577 million shillings in financial aid (1 shilling is equal to 0.66 French francs), the Saudis supplied \$418.2 million to cover war requirements. Last year, Somalia received only 175 million shillings in aid of which 52 million were financial aid and the equivalent of 123 million in food, principally for the refugees.

The government is confronted by another serious problem, that of putting the people back to work and fighting against psychological demobilization. Price rises are worrisome to a people trying, by means of expedients, to increase wages which too are low (a stenographer earns 400 shillings but the rent for a room in a villa costs 180 to 200 shillings...). An overcrowded and often ineffective administration and a sterile bureaucracy frequently prevent development projects from being implemented. It is this problem [essoufflement] which the Somali authorities are trying to attack.

The new institutions must mobilize the people once again. But it is also important to offer these people concrete improvements in their standard of living. "We cannot endlessly ask for sacrifices," sighs one high official.

## Forgotten Guerrillas Continue Fight

Paris DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE in French 19 Nov 79 pp 53-54

[Article by Mireille Duteil: "A Forgotten Guerrilla Force"]

[Text] Giant termite mounds rise above the thorn bushes which dominate the trail of red earth. The signs of a recent battle are still visible in this oasis in the southern part of the Ogaden where Somali nomads come to water their herds of camels, cattle and goats. Garlow Gube is the most important watering place in the region, midway between Werder and Kebri-Dehar. The combatants of the Western Somalia Liberation Front (WSLF) say that they engaged in violent battles "to liberate" this watering place, which was then in the hands of the Ethiopian army from the middle of September to the beginning of October.

By holding the wells, the Ethiopians attained a double objective: Assurance of water supplies for their military convoys and control of the populations. "They wanted this watering place to put pressure on the people in the dry season. They also wanted to move a convoy of food and ammunition from Jijiga to Werder," a WSLF leader said. He went on to say, "They arrived with more than 100 trucks protected by troops on foot, 16 armored vehicles and a dozen T 55 and T 62 Soviet-made tanks. We managed to dislodge them after more than 3 weeks of fighting, and we pursued them as they retreated toward Kedri-Dehar."

A forgotten guerrilla sector continues to operate in the Ogaden. "Fighting is taking place there on a large scale. All the Western countries know this; however, they pretend to be unaware of it," we were told by Abdelahi Mahmoud Hassen, WSLF secretary general, who had to express himself in Arabic. He received us in Hargeisa, the big city in northern Somalia, some dozens of kilometers from the Ogaden border, the stake of the conflict between Addis Ababa and Mogadiscio. "I can take you to Jijiga and as far as the mountains which surround Gara." Jijiga, the capital of the Ogaden, in the northern part of the province, was "liberated" in September 1977 by the WSLF. In March 1978, it was retaken by the Ethiopians when regular Somali troops retreated before the Addis Ababa army supported by Cuban troops and equipped with Soviet arms. After a moment of discouragement, the WSLF reorganized and resumed guerrilla warfare. Aided by 15,000 Cubans, the Ethiopians recaptured cities and towns.

In the bush, however, WSLF guerrillas are the law and harass Ethiopian supply convoys. The situations seem similar to that which prevailed before the arrival of the Somali troops in June 1977, when the Front combatants succeeded in completely disorganizing the Ethiopian lines of communication. The watering places upon which the survival of the nomadic population depends are subjected to incessant attacks. "The Ethiopians poisoned them to force the nomads to flee to Somalia," we were told in Hargeisa by Somali responsible for handling refugees. A report which is contested by the leaders

of the WSLF. Be that as it may, after the bombings--including those on the Somali side of the border--which were frequent until the summer of 1978 and more sporadic until the beginning of 1979, a situation of insecurity led to a massive exodus of populations to Somalia. "For Addis Ababa, things are simple," a Western diplomat told us. A guerrilla force has a chance of surviving only if it lives in the midst of the population 'like a fish in water.' Pour out the water and the fish dies." According to Ethiopian sources, the war reduced a million people to poverty who are said to have lost 80 percent of their herds.

The fighting seems particularly fierce in the southern part of the Ogaden, in the region of the lowlands triangle where prospects for the future will continue to be uncertain if, in the face of an overequipped army and several thousand Cubans, it does not receive active support from Somalia. It is true that at the beginning of September, in Mogadiscio, on the occasion of the Eighth Arab University Games, President Siad Barre declared it to be "an obligation of the Arab nation to extend its material and moral support to the peoples of western Somalia and Abbo Somalia and to work to liberate these Arab regions just as in Gaza and Jordan." But officially, both at the level of Somali authorities and those of the Front, there is a refusal to accredit the idea that Somalia is giving other than humanitarian support to the guerrillas. It is true that although there is a general belief Somali military personnel are no longer present in the Ogaden, nothing is preventing them on an individual basis from officially leaving the Somali army to rejoin the guerrilla ranks.

How does the front arm itself? "With weapons taken from the enemy," we were told by the number one man of the front, who added that his movement lacks military materials despite the aid it may be getting from certain Arab countries. Now a question comes to mind. Will this forgotten guerrilla force be transformed, expanded and perpetuated like that of Eritrea or is it a guerrilla force on the way to extinction, in spite of the victims who fall almost every day?

It is true that today Somalia does not seem ready to launch itself into a new adventure in the Ogaden. It no longer has the material means to do so. The West and the United States, in particular, is categorically refusing to give it the arms for which it is asking, on the pretext that it might once again give in to its old irredentist devils. Only France delivered sophisticated antitank weapons to it in 1978, through the intermediary of Saudi Arabia. Since then, Mogadiscio and Paris have engaged in negotiations in the military sector, without anything having yet been firmed up. But the French are only participating in the training of a few Somali officers at the Coetquidan interservice war college. Saudi Arabia itself, which in large part financed the Somali military effort in 1977, today needs a lot of persuading. The socialist coloration maintained by the Mogadiscio government is not a stranger to this starvation diet [regime sec] to which Riyadh intends to subject Mogadiscio. Also, Somalia is saying that it now

wants to secure the self-determination of the Ogaden peoples via the diplomatic route. Is this the end of the Greater Somalia dream?

Circumstances have already forced the Somali to revise--at least this is the official position given--their attitude with regard to Djibouti and the northern province of Kenya, which they have always claimed. In Saudi Arabia last September, President Siad Barre was ready to sign a nonaggression pact with Arap Moi, it is said in Mogadiscio. However, the Kenyan president demanded a pure and simple renunciation of Somalia's claims. "Do not force me to say that I renounced that upon which I built my whole policy," the Somali president is reported to have said in substance.

Will this realpolitik also prevail one day in the Ogaden?

#### New Face of Socialist Ethiopia

Paris DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE in French 19 Nov 79 pp 54-55

[Article by Mireille Duteil: "At the Watershed of a Revolution"]

[Text] Addis Ababa--A blindman suddenly brought into the Ethiopian capital would immediately know where he was. Nowhere else but in Addis Ababa does the green smell of eucalyptus assail your nostrils when you deplane at the airport. You find yourself immediately plunged into this 1,000-year-old bath of an Ethiopia which today has regained its calm after the revolutionary maelstrom. Passersby no longer have that fixity of stare which placed the stranger so ill at ease during the period of the "red terror." Traffic, which is intense, no longer has to envy that of the big African capitals; and one no longer sees lines of cars waiting at gasoline pumps. However, fuel is still rationed: 15 liters per vehicle per week. Nor are there lines any longer at food stores as was still the case 6 months ago when the farmers, to show their opposition to the central government which had imposed a selling price for grains, elected to store their teff rather than sell it in the city.

At nightfall the kebeles (members of district organizations), with their helmets and heavy military coats, continue to mount guard in the various districts of the city. However, when they are seated on a chair, despite the Kalachnikov poised on their knees, they still have the same debonair look. "Although the curfew is kept from midnight to 0500 hours, it is much more because of a concern for the maintenance of public order and surveillance of bars and prostitution than for reasons of a political kind," a diplomat told us. It is evident that the "moralization" campaign is being handled briskly.

One evening, I was approached by a little street hawker in the heart of the city. Before I could say a word, or make a move, the grip of iron of a policeman in civilian clothes descended upon the shoulder of the juvenile who was quickly taken away. Prostitutes and unemployed juveniles

who try to make ends meet by offering tourists bogus Coptic crosses or crude paintings on tanned goatskins, are quickly placed in small, midnight-blue Volkswagen police cars. They will then be sent to political education camps outside the capital for a few months. However, they are soon to be found again on the sidewalks of Addis Ababa. Other unemployed persons who are less lucky have been enrolled in the popular militia and sent to fight in Eritrea. Numbering 300,000 last year, the militiamen today number about 200,000, all recruited from the city's discards or farm masses.

The 178 kebeles which divided the Ethiopian capital into as many quasi-autonomous districts have today lost their police and court powers. The fights between the various political parties, like the fights between the central government and the Marxist opposition parties, following which the faithful of the Provisional Military Administration Committee (Derg) took the kebeles back in hand, resulted in the sidelining of the most politicized officials. Today it is the administrators who are in command positions. The kebeles have no other function than that of renting houses, running dispensaries, schools, organizing the supplying of markets.... Six months ago, the doors of the kebele prisons opened. With certain exceptions, those guilty of minor crimes, the prisoners were transferred by the thousands to the Addis Ababa central prison.

The return to the control of the central government of the kebeles and all the rank and file organizations (youths, women, unions, farmer associations) explains why, for the first time in 5 years, the country is once again being governed. But this pullback to the central government is also accompanied by demobilization of the people. Purges have decimated the most politicized activists at the same time as they have thinned out the ranks of the intellectuals, already few in number. The enthusiasm of the mornings of the revolution seems totally dissipated. Thus, in every enterprise, Friday afternoon is devoted, in part, to political education meetings. "Before," a longtime Marxist intellectual told me, "these meetings were based on current topics which were discussed heatedly. Today, the political leader, in a monotone, reads a text written in officialese. This afternoon there were two persons listening to him in my company. And yet, they are all superior cadres."

The cohabitation of the two faces of Ethiopia, the traditional face and the socialist face, at times leaves the visitor perplexed. Thus, on the road to Mercato, that famous and immense market in the capital which harbors a veritable court of Middle Ages miracles, one notes in shop windows a strange mixture of portraits of Marx, Lenin and Engels, the fathers of socialism, and photographs mounted under glass of the Child Jesus or the Crucifixion. This unusual juxtaposition seems to surprise no one. Not the Ethiopians, in any case, for paradoxically, the practice of religion has never lost any of its rights; and the revolutionary government has never seriously attempted to hamper it, even if it could have done so.

An Ethiopia leveled downward is in the process of being born. In the countryside, the "directive" issued last June providing for the establishment of agricultural production cooperatives is regarded by many observers as an attempt at preventing the birth of a new class of "kulaks." Many farmers, particularly on the large properties in the southern part of the country which were split up by agrarian reform, consider themselves the de facto owners of the lands distributed after the departure of the feudal lords. They feel that the establishment of the cooperatives is going to despoil their patches of land. "In fact," we are told by a university student who is very critical, "the Derg is proceeding by imitation. The military is copying what is being done in the socialist countries of Europe, without concerning themselves about the Ethiopian reality. And they think they are engaging in socialism."

This reticence of the farm world vis-a-vis the collectivization of land explains why, in this sector, the government is tiptoeing. The priority development of agriculture, since last February, has been the Derg's number one watchword. In the spring, at the time of his junket in the south, Mengistu Haile Miriam denounced those responsible for the big state farms for their meager results. The Ethiopian authorities are not forgetting that they have to import about 300,000 tons of grain per year to meet the needs of the people, which puts a heavy burden on the balance of trade whose deficit has been increasing continuously for 5 years. In parallel, 73,000 tons of coffee were exported in 1978 (coffee accounts for 80 percent of the country's exports), that is only 45 percent of the production of this food. The reasons for this shortfall: the lack of transportation, smuggling into the Sudan and too large domestic consumption.

The thirst for social justice which seems to explain the many decisions of the Addis Ababa strong man takes many shapes. Thus a fantastic effort is being made to move the inhabitants of the countryside and all the forgotten people of the empire out of centuries-old ignorance and obscurantism. A gigantic literacy campaign is underway. Four million adults are attending evening courses. At the outset, there were only 2 million. Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu dreams of making his country the Cuba of Africa, in domestic and foreign policies. In September, during the holidays celebrating the fifth anniversary of the revolution, the number one Ethiopian, instead of making an appeal for aid as usual, said for the first time that Ethiopia was ready to join Cuba and South Yemen in assistance to "oppressed peoples."

Although the presence of Soviet personnel who supplied \$1.8 billion worth of arms in 2 years is justified in the eyes of many Ethiopians only by the pursuit of the war in Eritrea, such presence has also permitted Mengistu to restore a strong central government by relying on an army which has become one of the strongest in Africa. Although, in the Ethiopia of secrets, it is still impossible to learn who is pulling the strings of power around Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu, one thing is certain: the future workers party, whose actual establishment is still being put back

by the establishment of a commission responsible for determining the criteria of a good activist, will be exclusively dominated by the army. "We were hoping that several civilians would lighten the khaki color of the government. Our every hope has disappeared," a disenchanted Ethiopian speaker observed.

#### Eritrean War Reviewed

Paris DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE in French 19 Nov 79 pp 56-58

[Article by Bernard Couret: "The War of the Cemeteries"]

[Text] Lines of crests. Deep cirques. Steep-sided gorges embedded in one another. Below us, the railway which links Asmara and Massawa hurtles from the plateau toward the sea like the chute of a fairground ride. An impressive and dizzying view of the Ethiopian province of Eritrea.

Crushed by the sun, Massawa, seen from an airplane, does not appear to have suffered from the war. And yet! Barely had we deplaned from our tiny Beechcraft when a stifling calm enveloped us. Everything is inundated by an unbearable light, penetrated by a torrid heat. The breeze from the north only blows sporadically, as if it is out of breath at times. The sole hangar of Ethiopian Airlines, which is totally smashed open, threatens to collapse. At the end of the runway, an Antonov 12 lies on its rounded belly; further along, the wreckage of two DC-3's is overrun with brambles. The charred tanks of the AGIP [Italian Petroleum Enterprise] depot rise out of the ground; two freighters eaten by rust are aground. Only a few half-starved goats inhabit these sites of desolation which bear witness to the ravages of the war.

Our convoy of Land Rovers traverse an almost deserted city. Everywhere, as far as the eye can see, there is nothing but facades filled with holes made by rockets, roofs torn off, caved in, houses destroyed by explosions, walls hanging by a thread. The church of Saint-Michel is only standing by a miracle. The platforms of the Asmara railway are starting to be invaded by climbing plants, while the rails lift up their twisted arms, like vine stocks. The city's only movie theatre serves as the meeting room. There, in the open, ideological courses are given to what remains of the population. Nothing is left of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia but its facade. Forty thousand inhabitants lived in Massawa 2 years ago. A captain who took part in all the battles, told us that most of the inhabitants went to the Sudan, Asmara or Keren, because they were unable to find refuge at the naval base. It is estimated that today one out of five inhabitants has returned.

In the offices of the admiralty, the airconditioning equipment sends forth a meager amount of coolness. Colonel Berhanu is eager to tell us with a wealth of detail the story of what was the toughest and most murderous battle of the entire Eritrean war.

We are in December 1977. The Eritrean Popular Liberation Front (EPLF), taking advantage of the Somali attacks on the Ogaden, makes certain of the control over the principal cities of Eritrea--except for Barentu and Asmara to which they are laying seige--and launches the attack on Massawa where they are established along the seacoast.

Surprised, the Ethiopian army falls back with several thousand civilians to the insular part of the city. The EPLF (between 15,000 and 20,000 men) will try in vain to dislodge them by launching two successive assaults which will result in the death of 2,500. The 500 men of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) rallied at the last minute and put on the front line will be decimated to the last man during these battles.

Blocked on the three islands, the Ethiopian units could not have held out during the 8 months the siege lasted but for a naval shuttle vessel which from the port of Assab brought them everything, including potable water. Finally, Colonel Berhanu told us, "Our firepower was decisive." The light artillery of the EPLF could not withstand this deluge of iron and fire which fell upon their positions. And it was not until July 1978, after several diversionary attacks, that the final assault took place which ended in hand-to-hand, no-holds-barred fighting during which the EPLF was forced to retreat, abandoning all its positions.

There will be hindsight discussion for a long time about the strategy which prevailed within the EPLF general staff; i.e., assurance of control over the city of Massawa, maritime access of capital importance for both on-site forces but which the EPLF knew it would be unable to hold for long. There will also be talk about its stubbornness in pursuing the siege of the Ethiopian garrison which was being reinforced increasingly every week and regrouping its forces for a final assault which was to be fatal to them.

With victory attained, it was necessary to bring a dead city back to life. The local authorities, faced with the scope of the task, could do practically nothing except assure the distribution of food through the intermediary of the kebeles (district associations). However, in this heap of rubble, the embryo of life began to see the light of day.

In torrid heat (in the event of sunstroke, a person dies in the following 15 minutes if he is not placed in the shade), men, women and children attempted to retrieve from the ruins that which might be helpful in the rebuilding of a sheetmetal roof, putting back a wall, fixing a door. The salt marshes were laid out in sharply defined rectangles, surrounded by their dikes. Many of them were dried out and the others filled with yellowish water. Only the cement plant, patched up with available means, began to produce several hundred sacks of cement per day.

In November 1978, the Asmara road was reopened to convoys which left the port every morning. The port had resumed a large part of its activities

to rejoin the capital of the province at the price of a testing climb. One easily understands the pride exhibited by officers of the National Revolutionary Operational Command (NROC). For them, the victory at Massawa was going to be the detonator of the general counteroffensive throughout the northern province.

Barentu! In a setting with which John Ford would not have found fault, spread out on the bottom of a basin, as recently as yesterday still the point of passage of caravans, with its small Italian fort perched on the hill, Barentu looks a bit like the end of the world. On the roughcast ochre of the houses with arcades which border the single street of this small town, one can read in English: "Down with narrow nationalism" or "The revolution is not a tea party."

Located 250 km west of Asmara by road, Barentu stands out mainly because of its uniqueness. One has difficulty believing he is in Eritrea. The negritude of this region hits one in the eye. Moreover, it played a capital role in the siege of this village which lasted 8 months (November 1977-July 1978).

The Kunama are among the most forgotten ethnic groups of Ethiopia. The central government, we are told, has never done anything for them. What is more, they were reduced to slavery by other nationalities, notably the Beni-Amer, who have always demonstrated their support for the Eritrean fronts. Also, it is not surprising that they were extremely active in this siege which is considered an important military action in all the messhalls of the Ethiopian army.

During this long siege, Barentu, it is true, caught hell. That can be read on the walls of houses riddled with points of impact. Colonel Getachew, age 38, told us this soberly: "The secessionists solidly held the surrounding hills, particularly the one dominating the airstrip where you landed. It was under heavy mortar fire that helicopters evacuated the wounded. That was tough, very tough."

Did you suffer high losses, we asked? Colonel Getachew hesitated for a moment before answering us: "To retake the hill which dominates the air-strip we lost 600 men during the third assault." And on other days? "It was variable; however, let us say that on days when there was heavy bombing the number of civilian and military casualties could total 40."

It also appears that the lack of "coordination" between the ELF and EPLF was partly to blame for the defeat of the Eritrean offensive which, however, had military means superior to those of their adversaries. The fact is that this misfortune was exploited in depth by the besieged who were thus able to await liberating reinforcements which came from Tesseney, near the Sudanese border, and from Tigre.

Although Barentu has become legendary, it remains for it to come back to life. Today it has no more than 15,000 inhabitants out of 25,000. What can be patched is patched. In the old marketplace, squatting camels are waiting to depart with their loads. The Asmara road has not yet been re-opened. "The cooperation between the armed forces and the people is total," Colonel Getachew went on to say. In fact, it does seem that reciprocal confidence has been established. The Kunama are doubtless the only Eritreans to be organized into armed militias. They take care of security over a radius of 50 km and make raids much beyond that. We again visited very well kept truck farms and a 30-hectare sorghum field being exploited by the army, the embryo of a new agricultural production cooperative.

Doubtless it is at Keren that the burden of the war will be felt the most. The second largest city in Eritrea, after Asmara, it occupies a strategic position of first importance. It commands the roads leading to the west, Agordat, Barentu, Tesseney and above all to the north, principally Nakfa where a decisive battle for the Eritrean fronts has been going on for several months. The loss of Keren had been deeply felt by Addis Ababa, as it had permitted Eritrean combatants to lay siege to Asmara.

From the interminable briefing given by Col Fekade Wakere and his colleagues a key word surfaced: "Vigilance!?" Uttered by the military-political commissioner, a young lieutenant who came up from the ranks and who wears the likeness of Lenin in his buttonhole, the word takes on a particular meaning when added to the comment: "The infiltrations of reactionaries into the army will never stop. It is a permanent problem, and we must be continually on our guard. We must see to it that secessionist propaganda does not reach either our army or the rank and file."

The local authorities did not conceal from us the fact that they were having serious difficulties, particularly in their work with young people. Only a little over 1,000 had joined the ranks of their association. The same was true of the farmer associations. Of the 250,000 inhabitants of the region, about 20,000 up to now have agreed to join them. That is few. There is no doubt whatever that the hold of the fronts was still being felt and that long and patient ideological explanation work would be necessary to dissipate confusion and lead the majority of the people to rejoin the ranks of the revolution, to make them understand "to what point the separatists had fooled them," to use the words of one of the military men.

The city was not the scene of any battles. Doubtless the Eritrean combatants were aware of the precariousness of their positions and had judged it useful to conduct a prudent retreat and take positions further to the north from which point they could mount a rather lively resistance. Twenty-five thousand inhabitants had returned to the city of the 45,000 who lived there. The Ethiopian army repaired the destroyed generators,

reestablished the distribution of water and telephone communications with Asmara. Only the administrative files were destroyed in a fire at the mayor's office.

Asmara, the capital of the province, is living at quite another pace. From many standpoints, it recalls the cities in the center of Italy with its broad avenues planted with palm trees, its sidewalks bordered by well-trimmed hedges. The cafes are never empty and one does not have to wait until 1800 hours to order his whisky, as in Addis Ababa.

As far as we can judge, the city has resumed its calm and real activity. The market is well-supplied as are the shops and pharmacies. The public buildings and hotels are guarded by soldiers or militiamen, and the search of those going into the buildings derives more from habit than suspicion. The curfew is still set for 1900 hours, even though the military check is less stringent. After that hour, anyone arrested is quite simply taken to the headquarters of his kebele--it was not always this way--where an identity check is made. He will spend the night there before being released early in the morning after being relieved of the mandatory fine.

Although Asmara has not yet resumed its former activity, it is no less true that we are witnessing economic recovery in several sectors (glassware, Melotti beer and alcoholic beverages, textiles, etc.). However, a very considerable effort must be made if the capital is to be lifted out of its state of dependence caused by the scarcity of raw materials and other finished products which are still arriving on a very limited basis from Massawa or Addis Ababa. "We will extirpate forever from Nakfa the cancer which was born 18 years ago in Eritrea." This remark by Col Seyoum Makonnen, commander of the Second Revolutionary National Army, underscores the importance attached to the battle underway in Nakfa since the beginning of the year which has the heaviest concentration of troops on both the Eritrean and Ethiopian sides.

Located 200 km north of Keren, Nakfa is difficult to find on the map. However, it is there that the EPLF is conducting its last big battle. It has made this isolated town the rear base of an entire battle in Eritrea. Everything commands the EPLF to set to this task with the energy of despair if it wants to preserve the future.

The Ethiopian army, which today controls the principal roads of Eritrea, is particularly optimistic with regard to the outcome of this last battle. Although the city is completely encircled, Col Seyoum Makonnen acknowledges that the assieged have received men, arms and ammunition from the Sudan, thanks to new access roads.

The Ethiopian military sector is not underestimating the strength of its adversaries who, deeply entrenched in Nakfa and on the surrounding hills,

have inflicted heavy casualties upon them--there is talk of 3,500 dead--for the single offensive launched on 13 July 1979. "We want to harass the enemy until he puts down his arms, otherwise he will be annihilated," we were told by military personnel.

The powerful Ethiopian army, reorganized and equipped by the Soviets, certainly has the resources to win a victory which no one doubts. However, does winning the war necessarily mean winning the peace? What will post-Nakfa be like? That is a question we have a right to ask.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

DMVS OBTAINS FINANCING FOR DIAMA, MANANTALI DAMS

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 28 Nov 79 p 3

Article by Cherif Elvalide Seye: OMVS: All financing obtained for Diama and Manantali Dams

Text Before the first work is started on the Diama Dam, a final meeting of sources of financing was held yesterday morning in Dakar to settle pending questions. They are of three types: technical, administrative and financial.

In the technical field, there are two aspects. Diama on one hand, Manantali on the other. For Diama, the big question involved the inclusion (or not) of the dams planned on the river's right bank. The problem was important and had not only technical aspects. Thus the conference of chiefs of states itself provided an answer to it. While believing that these projects are an integral part of the first section, the conference, taking into account the planning of the projects and the need to continue with additional studies, requested by most of the sources of financing, accepted a recommendation to delay the construction of the dam on the right bank.

Meanwhile, additional studies will be made as soon as possible. Consequently there is no disagreement on the technical plan between OMVS Senegal River Development Organization and the sources of financing.

On the contrary, regarding Manantali, some sources of financing requested a justification for the height of the dam about which, however, the consulting engineers reached a consensus. A technical report was drawn up and distributed.

The second item on the agenda referred to administrative provisions. It involved adapting the specifications to the PIDIC expansion unknown 77 standards which is the only international

system known well enough by all the participants. In view of the short time available, the consulting engineers altered the specifications and forwarded them without the High Commissariat revising them. Consequently the High Commissariat is reserving for itself the opportunity to make changes in them during the present meeting.

The examination of the financial plan for the two dams is the last item, which, no doubt, is the most important. This financial plan has been changed to take into account criticisms made, both as regards the distribution of contributions between the projects and the sections inside each project, as well as concerning the grounds for calculating financial needs. This revamped plan shows a discrepancy of 100 million dollars (about 20 billion CFA francs) between the probable costs and the amount of firm commitments, which amount to about 110 billion CFA francs.

To bridge this gap, contacts have been made with money lenders, who have definitely assured that some of them are going to increase their contributions. Besides new lenders have been found. These additional contributions cover the present deficit of 17 percent for the two dams. Consequently, financing can be considered assured for Diama as well as for Manantali.

Nevertheless, since an increase in costs is not considered impossible, OMVS is asking money lenders to promise it an extra contribution in the future, if the international economic situation should demand it. Still on the financial level, some sources of financing which have not yet precisely outlined the procedure for negotiating and signing loan agreements must do so, while indicating the approximate dates of these operations, to allow setting up the comprehensive accounting system which is the best suited to the various procedural restraints for releasing funds.

The question of agricultural development in the basin will also be investigated. The sources of financing had expressed the desire that the organization's jurisdiction be extended to this problem. Nevertheless, as the jurisdictions are now divided, this question devolves on the states for the problem is important and complex. It is also a matter of sovereignty and it is not delegated. On the other hand, some OMVS assistance to national organizations is not excluded.

The meeting must also approve the document calling for bids on Manantali and the altered administrative provisions.

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MAURITANIA'S HAYDALLAH SPEAKS AT DIAMA DAM CEREMONY

AB191954 Nouakchott CHAAB in French 13 Dec 79 p 1, 8 AB

[Speech given by Mauritanian Prime Minister Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydallah at the 12 December ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone for the Diama Dam by heads of states of member countries of the Senegal River Development Organization]

[Excerpts] It is my honor to welcome His Excellency President Senghor and all our honorable guests from Europe, Asia and America, and of course those from our brother African countries who are here to celebrate with us what we already call a remarkable achievement in the field of cooperation and international solidarity. You are welcome because we, the countries bordering the Senegal River, owe our gratitude to the countries and institutions that you represent and which, in one way or another, contributed to this event. First, we welcome those who were in St Louis with us in 1963 at the inauguration of the general secretariat of the inter-state committee. Next, we welcome those who drew up the first research program for the integrated development of the Senegal River basin with us; that is, the engineers, economists and heads of development agencies who helped us during the last 15 years to file our big project. Finally, we welcome those whose inestimable financial help definitely open the way to success.

It is through the perseverance of these men of good will who supported Mali, Mauritania and Senegal that we have met today at the rendezvous of hope.

It is, in fact, a rendezvous of hope because the symbolic act that we are carrying out today is only the starting point of a magnificent undertaking headed for the future. Today we are celebrating the marriage of three peoples engaged in a process of irreversible cooperation that will insure better living conditions for future generations in the basin of this river.

The cornerstone of the Diama Dam is not only the cornerstone of a project that will protect the lands of the delta against the advance of salty water and provide a reservoir of 500 million cubic meters of water for irrigation purpose. It is also the cornerstone of a large development program aimed

at totally transforming the living conditions of nearly 2 million people living on 330,000 square kms of the basin; that is, the entire population of our three states, which have been engaged for more than 16 years in an egalitarian and fraternal organization.

Our cooperation is based on political willpower which draws its strength from the perennial and objectively serious nature of common problems. The principles of equality and equity, which are characterized by the constant search for a balance between the burdens and interests of each of the partners, constitute the second basis of our cooperation, which has endured so many trials.

Mali, Mauritania and Senegal each have political and economic reasons for cooperating with the OMVS [Senegal River Development Organization].

The provision of a channel that is navigable throughout the year between Kayes and St Louis, thus giving Mali an opening to the sea, is undoubtedly of inestimable value because it considerably reduces transportation costs and frees this country from the constraints of being landlocked.

For Mauritania, the benefits are also evident. From an economic point of view almost all of the country's hydroagricultural potential is concentrated in the valley. Therefore, if it is exploited rationally, it will guarantee the balance in food production.

From the human point of view, the Senegal River is the meeting point of Negro-African and Arab-Berber populations, which confers on Mauritania its role as a link between white and black Africa.

As for the interests of the Republic of Senegal, they need no elaboration since the country owes its name to the river and the two are interdependent.

The strength of the OMVS resides in this group of common and joint interests and in the undeniable political willpower of member states, which is expressed in the main institutional and judicial acts of our tripartite association, notably:

--the international status of the river.

--the ownership and common management of basic infrastructures for irrigation, navigation and the production of energy.

--the common exploitation of river transport.

--the collective responsibility of the state for the financial commitments made for the implementation of the common project.

Messrs Presidents, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I will now say a few words about the aims of the OMVS, whose quality President Senghor earlier said is the cause of the exceptional credit our organisation has around the world.

The development efforts that will be made in the Senegal River basin during the next decade are aimed at:

1. First, insuring and increasing the income of the inhabitants of the basin and of the neighboring zones who represent about one-fifth of the population of the three states.
2. Insuring the equilibrium of the ecosystem in the basin and in the Sahelian region as much as possible.
3. Rendering the economies of the three states less vulnerable to climatic conditions and external factors.
4. Finally, accelerating the economic development of the member states through intensive and continuous promotion of regional cooperation.

Such are the aims of the integrated development project of the Senegal River basin, a river on which the best research has been done.

The intensive feasibility studies which were carried out during the decade from 1964 to 1974 enabled our organization to draw up a five point plan of action.

- the medium-term and long-term development plans for the basin,
- the selection of elements constituting a regional infrastructural program for the first stage of the project,
- the harmonization of this regional program with national development aims of the three states.
- the coordination of sectoral actions in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, agro-industry, mining industries and transport,
- the study, implementation and management of common infrastructural projects.

This long-term program will be carried out in two stages. It is based on controlling the flow of the river. This will be insured by the building of two dams. The Manantali dam is expected to control the flow of 300 million cubic meters. The Diama dam is expected to prevent salty water from flowing upstream during periods when the flow of the river is at its lowest and to serve as a reservoir for irrigation and filling lakes and basins in order to insure the supply of fresh water to important urban centers like the cities of Dakar, Houakchott and St Louis.

These two dams will make it possible to irrigate 375,000 hectares of land, to produce 800 million kilowatt hours of electricity and insure the

navigability of a 930 km channel between St Louis, where a fluvimarine port will be built, and Kayes, where a river port will be built. Ten other ports will be built between these two ports. This is, therefore, the perfect type of multipurpose project.

With regard to agriculture, we must say that control of the river will completely transform the conditions for exploitation of the valley's lands. The fundamental aim of the program which is to assure and increase the income of peasants will be attained owing to the change from cultivation by irrigation and the introduction of new high-yield cultivation techniques.

Agronomical research and studies carried out throughout the decades as well as the results of their application to development have made it possible to obtain very high yields. They have also proven the ability of the valley peasant to adapt himself to change, that is the change from agriculture involving the use of rudimentary techniques to intensive agriculture involving the development of several varieties of cultivation methods.

As for prospects of industrial development, they look very hopeful with an abundant and cheap energy. The Manantali dam with an estimated production of electricity of 800 million kwh represents one part of the hydroelectric potential located at a dozen sites found in the average valley of the Senegal River. The numerous iron, bauxite and phosphate deposits which are to be found in the territories of member-states and located in the neighborhood of the dam sites allow the planning of industrial units in the long run.

The industrial program for the short and long run calls for the realization of certain industries to meet the needs for equipment and essential building materials (cement, pumping equipment, equipment for repair and maintenance). To these will be added agricultural and agro-industrial equipment.

The third part of the OMVS [Senegal River Development Organization] program is the development of river transport.

This section is as important as the first two because it allows the Mali to be freed from its landlocked state and Mauritania's south-eastern regions.

The second step plans for the building of some dams which could raise the regular flow to 600 cubic meters per second so that hydro-agricultural potentialities will be close to a million hectares and the energetical production will be increased to more than 4 billion kwh.

Such are the grand projects for this very ambitious program which will consume huge human and material resources.

The OMVS member-states which have always been fully conscious of this important issue have examined the problem of the financing with much determination and care. They turned to the international community, namely the

various development funds throughout the world. We are happy to note that our plea was heard. To date, the feasibility and execution studies have cost 45 million U.S. dollars; this amount has been granted as loans particularly by UNDP, USAID, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada. These organizations and countries are those who allowed us to reach the present stage.

Regarding the first stage of the program the projects are estimated to cost more than \$1 billion. We decided to seek assistance for this amount from development aid organizations with favorable credit conditions, such as low rates of interests, and a long grace period.

Those projects which we decided to launch immediately were Diama and then Manantali, with an estimated cost of more than \$600 million; this amount is almost assured thanks to the active solidarity of friendly countries and financial organisms to which we sought assistance.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Canada, Italy, Iran, the Islamic Development Bank, the group of African Development Bank and the European Development Fund are among the countries and organizations whose overt commitment and assistance to us today gives us the assurance that the Diama and Manantali dams will be filled with water between 1984 and 1986.

Let me take advantage of this opportunity to express my congratulations to the chairman of the Council of Ministers and my thanks to the High Commissioner, whose functions expires in a few days. Let me also congratulate the anonymous experts, national and foreign, whose persevering efforts have allowed us to transform what was only a dream, even a wager, into a concrete reality. They have given us proof that collaboration between men of good will can yield miracles.

Finally, let me render a deserved homage to all of them in the name of the Republic of Mali, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Senegal. As President Senghor put it some moments ago, we are witnessing a marvellous example of triangular Arab-Euro-African cooperation which has found an excellent field of implementation in the Senegal River basin. The program that we are realizing is without doubt one of the most beautiful instances of human fraternity and solidarity.

The OMVS member-states have given full proof of their attachment to the integrated development of this basin, and the international community has shown its active solidarity. This solidarity appears like a light of hope for men of good will. The capital to be invested will be rightly remunerated because our project is profitable.

In fact, the profitability studies vary between 9 and 13 percent, but one must consider that the financial resources necessary for the realization of the infrastructure of the first step of the basin development are pre-investment funds.

Our subregion would be condemned to stagnation in a subsistence economy and its population would constantly be threatened by famine if a water control policy is not implemented in order to control the drought cycle that is so common in the Sahel. The building of dams is, for us, the best way to fight against that plague in a zone where the availability of water is a prerequisite to every development action.

Honorable guests, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, through the symbolic gesture that we will accomplish in a few moments, we will seal in cement, for the succeeding generations, the fraternity of the people of Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. And for that, we will have you all as witnesses.

Long live the Senegal River Development Organization! Long live international cooperation and solidarity! Long live the world peace!

CSO: 4400

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

CEL MEETING TO DISCUSS CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Meeting Opens

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 29 Nov 79 p 1

[Text] Today, the Executive Struggle Committee [CEL] of the PAIGC is beginning its regular meeting in the capital of the Republic of Cape Verde, under the chairmanship of the comrade secretary-general of the party, Aristides Pereira. As we reported previously, the meeting will discuss the preparation of the first constitution of the Republic of Cape Verde and the constitutional revision in Guinea-Bissau.

At its meeting today in Praia, the CEL will also analyze party problems, and will set a date for a special meeting which will deal with economic matters relating to the two fraternal nations.

Comrade Luiz Cabral, assistant secretary-general of the PAIGC, departed for Praia last Tuesday to participate in this meeting. He was followed by Comrade Joao Bernardo Vieira (Nino), of the standing committee; and Umaru Djalo, also a member of the standing committee. Other members of the PAIGC's Executive Struggle Committee who are in the city of Praia to participate in the meeting are: Jose Araujo, Vasco Cabral, Carlos Correia, Victor Saude Maria, Abdulai Barry, Paulo Correia and Otto Schacht; as well as Carmen Pereira, Honorio Chantre, Lourenco Gomes, Lucio Soares, Andre Gomes, Tiago Aleluia Lopes and Luis Correia.

Cabral Declarations

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 29 Nov 79 p 8

[Excerpts] Upon his return from Cape Verde, Comrade President Luiz Cabral, assistant secretary general of the PAIGC, declared: "It was a very important meeting in the life of our party, because we made some decisions on the supranational level which will offer new prospects for the work of our great party."

The comrade president remarked: "These were decisions such as that for the creation of the Secretariat of the party's Supreme Struggle Committee, which has been lacking. It will put in motion the party's action in our country and will also foster it on behalf of the unity called for by the PAIGC."

With regard to the creation of the Association of Combatants for the Fatherland's Liberty, Comrade Luiz Cabral said that it would be "an important instrument for the party, because we know that the base of our party consists of the combatants for the fatherland's liberty. They are the people who were forged in the fire of combat fighting for our country's liberation. Therefore, this association will combine those elements; and this will reinforce our party's action considerably, during this critical period in the struggle for national reconstruction in Guinea and Cape Verde."

The president also said that the CEL meeting took place "in an atmosphere of great equanimity and responsibility."

2909

CSO: 4401

DIFFICULT ROLE OF THE PRESS DISCUSSED

Paris DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE in French 19 Nov 79 pp 22-23

[Article by Paul Bernetel]

[Text] The life of newspapers is like that of men. Born in often difficult circumstances, a restless adolescence. A crisis in development before emerging fully mature. And what about death? In the case of a newspaper, it is not good taste to think about it. For isn't it everyone's wish in that sphere of activity to elevate it to the ranks of a true institution? In DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE we do not escape this rule which we wish for the service of eternal Africa. But not just any Africa. In any event, not one where men, whose only wrong was to refuse to beg for the just rights concerning basic freedoms, are brutally tortured. Still less one in which whole batches of individuals, men, women and children alike, are killed. This Africa of arbitrariness, state gangsterism, an Africa where the people are divested of their meager resources which are often placed at the service of personal ambition or of a special interest group in a "democracy"--even liberticidal regimes are not uneasy using that phrase--which, alas, remains in these very specific cases, which is in no way contradictory, the worst of regimes.

Twenty years following independence, obscurantism, tyranny and arbitrariness have not abandoned Africa's shores. Of course, voices have been raised and men have fallen. Isolated by the terrifying, repressive tool which strives relentlessly, by destroying some, to fashion a man who, once every 5 or 7 years, will cast the ballot which will keep him in the unhappy state of servitude. Tragic fate that keeps us destined for this masochism, of which nothing or no one seems bound or able to cure us. What has the African press's attitude been in this context? Things being what they are, there is nothing meriting a song and dance. Many African newspapers both on and off the Continent persist in the common attitude: show kindness toward friends and fiercely attack whipping-boys chosen on the basis of ideological or economic criteria. For there is no risk involved when you attack a country to which not a single issue is distributed! Others, few in number if not very rare, have decided not to displease anyone, to be on good terms with everyone. In a sense, that is the most delicate of attitudes. It imposes many more constraints, so many "cautions" and, in the long run, involves a certain amount

of concessions, most of the time leading to the inevitable, compelling and oppressive compromise. Compromise is the danger which awaits us all, with each issue, and which we must resist.

One has often heard it said that there is no simple intellectual. And, more than any other intellectual, the journalist becomes the object, often wrongly, of the type of scorn implied in such statements as: "the voice of his master," "It's a traitors' rag," "Oh, it's Pierre's organ...Mohammed's house," etc. Insinuations, insults, allusions? In several specific cases, we gave the impression of deserving it. We are not afraid of truth. And we are striving to be as clear and honest as we can in letting our readers share those things which trouble our conscience, as they present themselves. But to practice hodgepodge is as unfair as it is dangerous. Especially for those who, in the African press, are fighting step by step to attain the necessary independence, without which the mission to inform would be vain and illusory.

At DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE we have chosen, from the outset, to serve Africa and the African. These are the only institutions we are fighting for. But the nobility and loftiness of this ideal do not hide from us the obstacles which line the path toward our conquest of a Grail, which we do not want to be of cardboard. Although ideas allegedly have the power to move the world, they cannot change it alone. It is almost commonplace to affirm this fundamental truth. DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE in no way shuns the rules governing a modern enterprise. It must live to take on the mission with which its founders have entrusted it. Money is the sinews of war. This is another fundamental truth. Its role in the political and economic struggle is no less crucial. The same holds true for news. At what stage does it run the risk finding itself again in the service of those who control the money and are likewise in the service of an ideology? To what extent can money be used by the news media without jeopardizing its independence, nay, even its very existence? These are two questions which can actually be reduced to one and the same concern: the balance in the money/press relationship. Some claim to have found the answer. They are leading you on. Others are still looking for it. Finally, still others do not clutter their brains with considerations which are thought of as secondary.

The concerns of a group of African intellectuals who are very ambitious regarding Africa's future have coincided--which is not at all contradictory--with those of a certain number of businessmen on the Continent who have taken the risk--and it must be recognized as such--of, as they say, putting some "marbles" into a project which is rarely profitable. Both groups are aware of their obligations and of their respective, if not collective, rights and duties. There have been many cases in the history of the world press where problems have been born from an approach other than the mission to inform. We do not always avoid that difficulty. But the mutual confidence which stirs us has always allowed us to overcome it. As for us, aware of the realities and of our capacity as responsible journalists, we know that by the strength of our conviction we will sweep away reticence or misconstruals of our intentions.

At no time has DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE known crisis. But what goes for a man's life goes for a newspaper: there are tests which form a strong personality and strengthen one's determination. Let our readers be assured of that. At no time will we fail in the commitment we have made with regard to the continent. But all those who are aware of the reality and complexity of present-day Africa cannot ignore this reality: It is difficult, very difficult.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

NEW AIR ROUTE—The Dakar-Ouagadougou-Niamey-Ndjamena air route will soon be opened. This link is the result of a request by Chad to the multinational company Air Afrique. The future opening of this link was announced yesterday by our minister of transport, posts and telecommunications, Mr Alkaly Ramat, who has just returned to Ndjamena from Abidjan where he represented Chad at the ministerial council meeting of signatory countries of the Yaounde convention concerning transport. [AE261955 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 26 Dec 79 AB]

CSO: 4400

CAMEROON

BRIEFS

CNU CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONGRESS—The Central Committee of the CNU [Cameroonian National Union] has approved February 12-17, 1980, as the date for the third ordinary congress of the party in Bafoussam, West Province. The national president of the party and head of state, Ahmadou Ahidjo, who presided at the Central Committee meeting, called on party officials to be acquainted with the basic (?picture) on the scene of government activities and [words indistinct] action. [Text] [AB300825 Yaounda International Service in English 1400 GMT 29 Dec 79 AB]

^SO: 4420

CHAD

BRIEFS

FAO AID TO CHAD—The FAO has granted Chad 21 million CFA francs to help this country purchase agricultural fertilizers. The agreement was signed by the Chadian minister of agriculture and the FAO representative to Chad. [Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 20 Dec 79 A3]

CSO: 4400

GUINEA-BISSAU

ENTIRE SCOPE OF COOPERATION WITH FRANCE STUDIED

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 22 Nov 79 p 3

[Text] The dynamization of several projects that are under way, and the signing of new documents for cooperation, were the most significant results of the meeting of the Joint French-Cape Verdian Committee which met for the third time on 29 and 30 October, in Praia. The delegation from the fraternal nation was headed by Comrade Jose Brito, state secretary for cooperation and planning; and the French delegation was led by Mr Joudiou, head of economic development in the French Ministry of Cooperation.

The meeting dealt extensively with the current status of cooperation, particularly in the rural development effort (investigation and exploration of subterranean water on Sao Nicolau), the agricultural assessment of the island and the interpretation of aerial photographs, aimed at procuring scientific information for the integrated rural development programs. Some new projects in this sector are related to the development of certain hydrographic basins, and small-scale activities involving irrigation and water supply in Santiago, as well as the development of fruit growing and the establishment of forage.

With regard to unconventional energy, an agreement was made for the French Government's involvement in modernization of the national maritime survey, in phases, and the supplying of aerogenerators, eolic pumps, etc., in addition to other projects yet to be determined.

Supplementary backing for the construction of the Preparatory School in Santa Catari and the secondary teachers' training school, the provision of laboratory equipment and specialized libraries, technical and material assistance for the reorganization of the teaching of French, aid for the creation of a combined office-school, the training of teachers and the supplying of 50 study grants were some of the chief results of the meeting in the area of education and culture.

Cooperation in the realms of transportation and communications, tourism and radio broadcasting did not fail to be broached and analyzed extensively. For example, there was a discussion of the financing of a 180-ton coastal

trading vessel, and of a generating set to reinforce the Mindelo powerplant. At the meeting, the participants discussed the means of hastening the project for updating the national radio broadcasting system, which began in 1977; and, to resolve the problems in that sector, the granting of aid in the form of food and opportunities for credit for the construction of housing for technicians.

The definitive results of this meeting of the Joint French-Cape Verdian Committee depend on subsequent studies and negotiations. However, there was evidence of greater receptiveness and availability on the part of France in the matters discussed by the present joint committee, in comparison with what has existed thus far.

Comrade Jose Brito, state secretary of cooperation and planning, made an evaluation of the serious difficulties which Cape Verde has experienced during its progress toward development, due mainly to ecological and weather conditions which have been particularly severe. He underscored the excellent cooperative relations between France and Cape Verde, and expressed his satisfaction and the Cape Verdian Government's recognition for the dynamism of French cooperation.

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CSO: 4401

GUINEA-BISSAU

INITIATION OF PROJECTS FINANCED BY KUWAIT-SAUDI ARABIA

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 22 Nov 79 pp 1, 8

[Text] Confirmation was given to us by members of the delegation from Guinea-Bissau which returned to the country yesterday, after having met with the heads of the financing institutions concerned that the projects financed by the Kuwait and Saudi Arabian Fund will soon start to be carried out in our country.

During the stay in those countries of Comrades Manuel Santos (Manecas), the state commissioner of transport and tourism, and Inacio Semedo, general director of international cooperation, there was a discussion of the status of the development of infrastructures financed by them, namely, the construction of the Bissalanca airport, the improvement of the equipment in the port of Bissau, the Gambiel dam, the section of road between Xitole and Quebo and the cashew nut project.

For the purpose of signing the agreement for the execution of the work on the Bissalanca airport, "Division 1, Civil Works," two experts arrived in Bissau yesterday from Socovias, a Portuguese civil construction firm in charge of that work.

Our delegation discussed the economic feasibility of these projects. However, the agreements with Saudi Arabia were not signed, because some studies are yet to be made on the project for construction of the Gambiel dam, which have been planned for the end of next month.

With the Islamic Development Bank (BID), our delegation analyzed that entity's participation in equipping the Liceu airport and the Cumere agroindustrial complex; and a loan was guaranteed for the purchase of oil and its by-products, through Algeria, as well as for the construction of large fuel storage facilities.

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CSO: 4401

GUINEA-BISSAU

**EXPORTS, IMPORTS RISE, STATISTICS PROVIDED**

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 20 Nov 79 pp 1, 8

[Text] Guinean exports increased during the first half of this year, rising from '33,000 to 230,000 contos in value with respect to the same period last year, owing chiefly to agricultural production and fishing, which contributed 156,000 and 58,000 contos to that figure, respectively.

But, since imports also increased substantially during the first 6 months of this year, and might even be said to have nearly doubled (697,500 contos from January to June 1978, and 1.15 million contos during the same period in 1979), the coverage rate, which was 26.2 percent last year, has now dropped to 20 percent.

This increase in imports is due to the need for food supplies and for purchases of increasingly more expensive fuel, machinery, tools and transport vehicles. Wheat flour (12,000 contos), powdered milk (24,000), rice (31,000), sugar (12,000), fabrics (50,000), fuel (90,000), industrial machinery (445,000) and industrial and passenger transport vehicles, plus parts and fittings (250,000 contos) are the main categories in which our imports were distributed during the period in question.

Portugal, with 25 percent of the total, was the country from which we imported the most products; while we sold it 45 percent of our exported products.

According to the Monthly Bulletin on Foreign Trade for May and June 1979, from which we excerpted this information, during the first half of this year Guinea-Bissau also received a total of 200,000 contos in donations.

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CSO: 4401

GUINEA-BISSAU

MINISTER REVIEWS COOPERATION, JOINT VENTURES IN FISHING SECTOR

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 22 Nov 79 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Joseph Turpin, state secretary of fishing; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] NO PINTCHA: The State Secretariat of Fishing has pursued a policy of establishing mixed companies with foreign partners to make better use of our fishing potential. On what criteria has the establishment of those companies been based, and what is the Guinean share of their capital stock?

Joseph Turpin: Since the Republic of Guinea-Bissau does not have financial resources nor cadres, it could not set forth alone to explore the vast resources that our waters contain. And, in particular, for acquiring information in an area as complex as that of fishing, the easiest solution and the one most viable on the basis of our circumstances was precisely the creation of mixed companies.

At present, we have mixed companies with France, Algeria and the Soviet Union, and there are good prospects for establishing another one with Portugal.

These companies were created in accordance with the law of our republic, with capital of which the government holds 51 percent, and the foreign stockholders 49 percent.

N.P.: Do those companies represent any economic advantages for the country?

J.T.: With these companies, we have an opportunity, over the medium and long term, to solve the problems currently confronting us in the area of infrastructure, and native cadres in particular. Within 5 years, the benefits of the creation of this infrastructure and of the training of native personnel will be felt.

N.P.: Fishing permits have been granted to several foreign shipowners whose vessels are operating in our exclusive economic zone. The matter was discussed at the last session of the National People's Assembly, and the

deputies warned about the danger of our economic zone's becoming barren a result of the sophisticated systems used by those ships, and the large number of permits that have been granted. What steps have been taken to respond to the warning given by the deputies?

J.T.: Actually, the fishing effort in the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau from 1975 to 1976 and 1977 was so great that our fauna ran the risk of being depleted. This would create serious problems for our economy.

That is why the SEP [State Secretariat of Fishing] adopted measures to make a considerable reduction in the number of permits previously issued.

But the mere reduction in permits means nothing unless we take steps to inspect the fishing areas, since we know that there are vessels engaged in illegal fishing.

Within a short time, the SEP, in cooperation with the Navy, will organize a department to oversee the activities of the fishing vessels, so as to give effective protection to our resources and guarantee the continuity of their utilization.

N.P.: The scientific research on marine resources and a balanced, profitable exploitation of our fish require qualified cadres. With the realization that our country does not have a reliable tradition in this area, how many of our comrades are being prepared at present, and where, to take charge of this difficult sector of economic activity?

J.T.: Right now, we have several natives being trained in various countries, specifically, Brazil, the United States, the Soviet Union, etc., who will be future cadres in the scientific field, for biological and oceanographic research, higher-level technicians for the industry, specializing in fishing and ship technology, higher-level technicians for the fishing planning and economy sector, administrative technicians either for the fishing or the enterprise sector, master fishermen, ordinary fishermen, ship engineers and personnel engaged in fishing with tackle, auxiliary technicians, fleet supervisors, radio technicians, machine operators and technicians for the processing of fish.

N.P.: The cooperation with other countries having long experience in this field appears to have brought some advantages, specifically in the training of cadres. What other prospects are in view for cooperation in fishing? Is the government considering the establishment of new mixed companies with the countries cooperating with us, namely, Brazil, the United States and Portugal?

J.T.: In the area of fishing, we are cooperating mainly with the Soviet Union, the United States, Portugal, Brazil, France and Algeria. This cooperation has become progressively beneficial for our country.

In the case of Brazil and the United States, we already have scores of students being trained in the various disciplines associated with fishing.

The mixed fishing companies with France and the Soviet Union have undergone great changes, and we can expect that, within a few years, they will be of key significance in the country's balance of payments.

With Portugal, we have planned the creation of a mixed company in which we are vesting great hopes. There are also scores of young people in that country receiving technical training at fishing schools.

Unfortunately, the Guinean-Algerian Company is still experiencing certain problems, but we think that they will soon be surmounted.

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CSO: 4401

YACE DELIVERS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO PARTY OFFICIALS

AB192205 Abidjan INFORMATION in English 19 Dec 79 p 2 AB

[Publication of AGENCIE IVOIRIENNE DE PRESSE]

[Text] Mr Philippe Yace, secretary general of the Ivory Coast Democratic Party (PDCI), opened the annual meeting of heads of local subsections here this morning by reading a message from President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

The head of state, who is honorary president of the party, called on secretaries of local branches to reflect on the main themes outlined in his independence day address, particularly those concerning the present domestic situation, in preparation for next year's congress.

The founder of our national party stressed the need for its leader to establish contact with the masses who, he said, have lost interest because they feel left out of the development process. He warned that "when it can be said that much remains to be done, it must be admitted that nothing has been done," and added that the party and the government will be able to claim success only when the needs of the people have been satisfied.

President Houphouet-Boigny revealed in his message that he plans to call the next PDCI congress at least 6 months prior to elections, instead of 2 or 3 months before the polls as in the past, to allow ample time for candidates to explain the platform. He recalled the three topics he has suggested for examination at the session--changes in party structures, aid for the peasant masses, ways and means of placing education in the service of development--but said the secretaries were free to add items to this agenda.

Mr Yace proceeded, after relaying the president's message, to review political, economic, social and cultural events in the Ivory Coast since his last meeting with local party officials last year in Korhogo.

Prefects from all the departmental capitals, and administrators who have been acting as PDCI secretaries since the death of the elected party official, are taking part in the 1979 session, which is due to end tomorrow.

CSO: 4420

IVORY COAST

OIL PRODUCTION TO BEGIN IN JULY 1980

AB241345 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 22-23 Dec 79 p 14 AB

[Excerpts] "The Ram petroleum deposit will begin production in July 1980. Contrary to rumors, the deposit is located in our territory and not in Ghana. The capacity of production will not really be known until the first three months of 1981." It was in these terms that the minister of mines, Mr Paul Gui Dibo reassured the secretaries general of the sub-sections of our party at a meeting in the National Assembly last Thursday. The secretaries general as well as the general public were worried about the silence concerning the oil which was discovered in 1977.

On his appointment as secretary of state for mining in 1971 Mr Gui Dibo devoted considerable attention to the training of senior civil servants in order to carry out his task. In 1971 there were three engineers and geologists but today there are 48 geological engineers, mining engineers, oil engineers, geophysical engineers and oil chemists. The number is expected to increase by January 1981 to 51. More than 200 are presently studying outside the Ivory Coast (U.S., Canada, Great Britain, France and Romania). Others are in the National School of Public Works (Mining and Geological Department, Yamoussoukro).

After talking about the training of personnel the minister gave a report on the research being carried out. The important iron deposit of Mount Klahayo (300 million tons of concentrate containing 69 percent Fe) has been prospected by the Pickands, Matherco International Company. This deposit which should normally produce 12.5 million tons a year has not yet been exploited due to the iron ore crisis on the world market particularly in the Japanese and European iron and steel industry. With regard to gold it has been decided since 1972 to reexamine the possibility of discovering deposits. Diamonds are presently extracted from a deposit in Tortiya (Katiola) and another deposit is being prospected. Research conducted in several regions of our country has revealed that there is nickel, copper, molybdenum, gold and uranium. The Ivorian Petroleum Company (PETROCI) in association with two other companies have to this day invested 40 billion CFA francs in oil exploration.

CSO: 4400

IVORY COAST

BRIEFS

WORLD BANK LOAN—The Work Bank recently announced that a \$24 million loan was granted to the Ivory Coast to help her implement her third educational project. The loan, the total amount of which is \$84.9 million, is meant to assist the government's policy of allowing more children into primary education and to improve the quality of this education. To that end, the project plans for the building and equipping of 4 teacher training centers which can host 580 students and train roughly 500 primary school teachers every year. The loan will also serve to finance the government's rural project to assist around 300,000 peasants in the north of the Ivory Coast. The project which also includes technical assistance for the planning of education and plans for the financing of equipment and certain operating costs to enlarge the Ivorian staff will be cofinanced by ADB and the Ivorian Government. The African Development Bank is to grant a \$19.5 million and the Ivorian Government will give \$41.4 million. The World Bank loan is refundable in 17 years after a 4 year grace period and with a 7.95 percent yearly rate of interest. The ADB loan is granted for 20 years, among which a 5-year grace period and with a 7 percent yearly rate of interest. [AB181230 Abidjan Information--publication of Agence Ivoirienne de Press--in French 17 Dec 79 pp 3, 4 AB]

CSO: 4400

LIBERIA

BRIEFS

LIBERIAN-WEST GERMAN AGREEMENT--A 4.5 million dollar agreement was signed yesterday in Monrovia between Liberia and West Germany to finance the commercial and training sawmill in (Tubmanburg) territory. The agreement will also fulfill the financial requirements of forest industry workers of the Manu River Union. The acting minister of finance, Mr Rudolf Johnson, signed on behalf of the Liberian Government while the German ambassador to Liberia, Mr Thomas Troemel, signed on behalf of his government. [Monrovia Radio Elwa in English 0625 GMT 14 Dec 79 AB]

CSO: 4420

**MADAGASCAR**

**UDECMA COUNCIL MOTIONS REPORTED**

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 6 Oct 79 p 2

[Text] While waiting for its next congress: motions of the UDECMA national council. After the meeting of the 10th national council of UDECMA [Malagasy Christian Democratic Union] which was held from 13 to 16 September last in Moramanga, the UDECMA revolutionary group made the following announcements:

On the political plan:

Its indefectible support of the struggle for the enlightenment of socialism under the leadership of its president, Didier Ratsiraka;

Its availability to fight to the end in this course;

Its firm belief on the possibilities accrued from the collaboration within the FNDR (National Front for the Defense of the Revolution) and at all levels of decentralized collectivities;

Its admiration and approval of RDM's (Democratic Republic of Madagascar) attitude when facing international problems in the same manner as the presidential intervention on the rostrum of the nonaligned in Havana recently;

Its militant support to all progressist countries in the world, especially to all the liberation movements;

Its condemnation of all the machinations and maneuvers of imperialistic and neocolonialist forces with the view to defeating liberation movements, through the mercenary trade, espionage practices, coup d'etat order, against the people's states;

Its militant demand for peace and generalized security against massive destructive arms, military bases outside national territories, especially in the Indian Ocean.

### On the economic plan

Taking into account the generalized difficulties which are affecting worldwide economy due to inflation, UDECMA recognizes the necessity for Madagascar to do its utmost to increase its capacity in the matter of agriculture, stock-farming and industrialization.

To make common cause with the revolutionary power in its efforts for the development and operation of rice, collectivisation of production and socialization of labor.

UDECMA warmly congratulates the revolutionary power and the masses for their joint efforts in the social, educational, health, sports, food fields...

On its part UDECMA has restructured its internal organization in order to make it more efficient in accordance with the requirements of the revolution. It has therefore been decided to set up the youth sports section on the level of the UDECMA cells, under the direct responsibility of the central UDECMA bureau.

UDECMA is mobilizing all its militants to take an active part at all levels in the struggle for the collectivization of production within the UDECMA-AKAFIMA (expansion unknown) cooperatives.

Finally it was decided that UDECMA will hold its 8th congress from next 29 November to 3 December at Antsasavana-Isotry national center. It calls on all its militants to participate in this congress as a proof of the unfailing confidence it pledges to their national president, Andriamorasata Solo Norbert.

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## MADAGASCAR

### ARRIVAL OF GERMAN ECONOMIC MISSION REPORTED

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 30 Oct 79 pp 1, 6

[Text] An economic delegation from the GDR (German Democratic Republic) is in our midst at the present time. This delegation is comprised of four members: Augner, commercial delegate from AHB (foreign commercial enterprise), Dr Hoede, specialist in forage cultivation, Dr Poetschke, expert in veterinary medicine, and Mueller, specialist in agricultural techniques.

According to Tippman, GDR chargé d'affaires to RDM (Democratic Republic of Madagascar), this delegation is directed to study on the spot and discuss with important Malagasy people the possibilities of economic cooperation between the two countries, and most particularly the installation of three industrial centers for porcine breeding, breweries and malt houses, and a project of assistance from GDR in developing soybean cultivation in Madagascar.

#### Exchange of views

Regarding the installation of the centers, the German experts have been retained by the ministry for the development of the following centers: Sakay, Fianarantsoa, Tamatave, or Tulear.

In this connection the members of the delegation went to Sakay last week. On that occasion they exchanged views with breeding technicians and the officials in charge of the state farm of Sakay on the subjects necessary for the development of this project: forage cultivation, building construction, availability of water and electricity, erection of a refrigerated slaughter-house, training of personnel....

The delegation is leaving for Fianarantsoa today, then later for Tamatave or Tulear, for similar visits.

#### Development of technical and commercial cooperation

As regards the possibility of GDR assistance for the development of soybeans, work sessions are planned for a later date with officials in the ministries of economics and defense. Tippman made a point of underlining that GDR

assistance could be directed towards delivery of machinery and other agricultural equipment according to RDM's needs; in addition, the production of soybeans could also be of interest to GDR. This, he continued, is in accordance with GDR's wish to develop technical and commercial cooperation with the countries under development similar to Madagascar. The introduction of breweries and malt houses will also be discussed with the ministries of economics and commerce officials.

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TECHNICAL INSTITUTE COURSES, PROJECTS DESCRIBED

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 21, 22, 23 Nov 79

[21 Nov 79 p 1, 2]

[Article: "Polytechnic--What is it for?"]

[Text] Polytechnic Higher Education Institute "Week" is at its height in Tananarive and Antsiranana. While in Ampasampito examination of projects is continuing, but is unlike the "Open Door" operation at the Technical Group in Ankatto, which began on Monday and is of interest to many young people, and even to adults. What can be more natural in this key sector of a nation's life than the training of higher technicians?

The country needs them. So this "Week" is sure to stir up some vocations among the young. It is also one of the main objectives sought by the promoters of the demonstration, the other objectives of course being to inform the broad public of the basic vocations with which this establishment is involved.

Yesterday, between examinations, Etienne Rakotomaria, the president of the EESP [Polytechnic Higher Education Institute], was eager to talk to us. "When we speak of Polytechnic we think of all the existing engineering professions. According to Larousse, an engineer is a person whose knowledge renders him fit to occupy active scientific or technical offices for the purpose of creating, organizing and directing the work that takes place there.

"The engineer is therefore a professional who assumes responsibilities in society. And it is in those terms that we have to design his training. At the present time there is no argument about Madagascar's urgent need of technicians. Since 1973, when it was created by combining the former IUTI [expansion unknown] and the ENTP [expansion unknown], there have been nine areas of training in the EESP. Despite the different events the country has been going through, the Institute has steadily improved."

Despite that statement of his satisfaction, Etienne Rakotomaria made no secret of the existing problems. Especially the shortage of premises for teaching. It is so severe that the University has been forced to acquire privately-owned buildings (Vogue, Acropole Hotel, Rene Depui, etc.) in the capital. The

same is true for premises for public works laboratories; hence the recourse to various departments that work closely with the EESP, such as the FTM [Malagasy Technicians Front] in Ambanidja, the INTP [National Institute of Telecommunications and Postal Services] in Ivato, the LTCC [expansion unknown] in Ampefiloha, the Geologic Service and the Meteorologic Service in Ampandrianomby, etc. These laboratories are also "opening" their doors during the EESP "Week."

On the other hand, the teacher shortage is almost solved, thanks to the government's policy of looking everywhere. Swiss, French, Polish and Soviet and Romanian teachers are teaching at the EESP in Ankafao and Antsiranana. As in most key sectors of such importance, relief is also provided by sending our young engineers abroad for their postgraduate work, and finally by recruiting new technical colleagues to the EESP.

For interested young people, the studies last four years beyond the bachelor's. Final Honors programs are elective subjects- to be chosen according to the kind of immediate needs; upper school programs will not be changeable, because they are basic subjects. Except that the current structural reform requires a revision (at least partial) of the programs now in effect. On the subject of decentralization, "Electromechanical Engineering" is situated entirely at Antsiranana and has been since 1978; it finds ideal ground there, with that city's proximity to industrial and naval installations. The "Common Core" has also been located there since 1977, its first year.

The number of students has been increasing since 1974. From 623 at that time, at the present time there are 1,000. After the "Common Core," where of course the maximum number of pupils are found, is the "Telecommunications" curriculum, which seems to have won the most followers (75), followed by Electromechanical Engineering (74) and Public Works (57). After those curricula there is "Geology" (25), "Mining" (19), Meteorology (11), Topography (11) and Hydrology (3). These figures are applicable to the university year now in progress.

Our talk with President Etienne Rakotomaria also dealt with conditions for admission. He explained that those with C Baccalaureat, Industrial Technology or Civil Engineering degrees are admitted for registration in the first series. It is the same for those who have equivalency status (from the commission, of course) and those admitted to the Special B Examination for University entrance.

Admission to the second year is subject to obtaining the same general average in passing to a higher class as on graduation. However, admission to the second or third series is possible for students holding an equivalency certificate or diploma (former Dues, Det or Duet, etc.).

This year 80 percent of the students are holders of RDM [Democratic Republic of Madagascar] scholarships. In 1976 the UNDP [United Nations Development Program]-WHO offered two scholarships with equipment allowances for students in the TP [Public Works] course. Since 1974 the Public Works Ministry has offered student grants to students in the TP course, and since 1978 to those in the "Topo" course. Since that year the same has been true for "Meteo."

Tomorrow we will continue this quick presentation of the EESP. We can say here and now that the institution offers a considerable choice of career openings upon graduation.

[22 Nov 79 p 2]

[Article: "Six More Polytechnic 'Projects'"]

[Text] Today we continue our report on projects supported by the EESP.

On Monday afternoon there was an applied electronics project, "Study and Development of a Numerical Multimeter," and a Chemical Engineering project, "Contribution to the Study of the Manufacture of Phosphate Fertilizers in Madagascar."

Tuesday, yesterday, the Telecommunications section presented two other studies: "Study and Development of a Scanner or Analog Multiplexer" and "A Study of the Use of a Microprocessor to Test a Transmission Connection." Finally, also yesterday but in the afternoon, the Public Works section presented projects involving two more bridges on RN 1, Tsiroanomandidy-Main.

As we said earlier in these columns, it is difficult to go into the technical details here of the projects accomplished, not only because we lack space, but also because beyond a certain degree of specialization we think the details might not always be of interest to our readers. Also, in our report today we will content ourselves with describing the characteristics that seemed to us especially striking in the projects we attended, especially in referring to the objectives of the EESP training, according to indications given on several occasions by Etienne Rakotomaria, president of the Institute.

Those characteristics may be summed up by saying that the Institute seeks to provide its students with training that will result directly in practical applications, while striving to be up-to-date in matters of technology. Furthermore, the Institute makes a special effort to be a producing school (sekoly mamokatra), and because of this the projects are oriented either toward self-production of equipment or toward solution of problems having priority for development, in very close association with the technical ministries and with industry.

The six projects of which we speak today illustrate these points, which also form the themes of the "Open Door" inaugurated yesterday in the Technical Group of the EESP.

In fact, the projects of Rakoto Rajaonarivelo and Alfred Rakotondrasoa on the "numerical multimeter" and William Randrosoarison, Aime C. Razafimbolafidy and D. Rasendramiadana on "The Analog Multiplexer Scanner" are part of the Institute's effort to manufacture locally apparatus intended for teaching or research.

These very interesting projects actually resulted in completion of two apparatuses which the students demonstrated for the public and the jury. The

apparatuses largely use the most modern electronic components (logical circuits, integrated circuits, AM [amplitude modulation], operational lis [translation unknown], well mastered by the authors of the projects.

This modern quality was even more apparent in the project of Claude Raharinjatovo and Justin Rakotondrasoa, entitled "Study and Use of a Microprocessor for Testing a Connection for Transmitting Data." We know in fact that the microprocessor is currently the latest thing in applied electronics. Here too the students showed a thorough mastery of the technology, since they conceived all of the programming and assembly for use of the microprocessor. They also gave a successful demonstration of their apparatus.

This accomplishment--a point the president of the EESP dwelt on at some length--was performed within the framework of a proposal by the Telecommunications Department in the PTT [Posts and Telecommunications] Ministry and took place under the direction of that ministry's specialists.

Which underlines the close association between the Institute and the future employers of the students.

This same close cooperation between industry and development was also very appreciable in the other three projects. In fact, the project of Ignace Rakotoarivonizaka dealt with the "local manufacture of phosphate fertilizers" from local raw materials (bone phosphorites from the Bahrein Islands, etc.). We are all aware of the importance of the fertilizer problem in Madagascar, and the priority of agriculture, especially rice, for National Planning and Development, so there is no point in dwelling on it. But we emphasize that in this case too the project was accomplished in very close association with PROCHIMAD [expansion unknown] and its local production plant.

Finally, like the two preceding bridge projects on RN 1, Tsiroanomandidy-Maintirano, the projects of Claude Rabejazafiarison and Badet Raoilison Andriamanahandry, "Ankazondrano Bridge, PK 128" and Jean Marie Rakotomalala and Gilbert Rakotondramanana, "Bridge Over the Kiromby River, PK 143," are detailed studies of this important route to opening up the Maintirano region, which is one of Planning's priorities. here too the projects were worked out in close cooperation with the TP Ministry and the SINTP [National Public Works Company], their future users.

[23 Nov p 2]

[Article: "The Last Days of the 'Polytechnic Projects'"]

[Text] Today we give you our last report on the "projects" of the engineers graduating from the EESP. In fact, according to indications we have received, the projects presented yesterday, Thursday, are the last of the series, not counting three for Tananarive and Antsiranana together, which the juries postponed until a later date so the candidates could take them up again and go into them in greater depth. Five reports, then, were given on Wednesday and Thursday respectively for Public Works, Topography and Mining.

On Wednesday morning Arivelo Andriakaja and R. Randriamampianina presented their study of Project No 7 on the RN 1 Tsiroanomandidy-Maintirano. Like the other projects of the Public Works section, this is a new bridge in a series of bridges under construction on that route. Also like the other projects, the work was done with the cooperation of the Public Works Ministry and various organizations, most of them under the SINTP and the National Public Works and Buildings Laboratory (LNTPB). Still on that same day, two projects of the Topography section were presented, also in cooperation with the Ministry's technical services; they were submitted for examination by practising engineers and specialists. In fact, both projects were proposed by specialists of the FTM (Foiben-Taosaritan'i Madagasikara), our National Geographic Institute, and in large part carried out within that establishment. The jury was made up of executives of that organization and the Central Topographic Department, and EESP teachers. The project of Robert Rakotozafy and Josoa Ravelomanantsoa dealt with "Improving the Precision, Maintenance and Densification of the First-Class Geodesic System in Madagascar." The authors, after recalling the history of the state of the Malagasy first-class geodesic system and its evolution, going through Col Laborde's celebrated coordinates, then the most recent studies by the IGN [National Geographic Institute], discussed the possibility of improving the system by using the most modern geodesic methods, for example electromagnetic methods of measuring distance. They carried out a study of the cost of the improvement operations and discussed many problems raised by maintaining geodesic terminals. We point out here that it appeared from the candidates' discussion with the jury that although the terminals are indispensable for many applications in development operations, they are often destroyed through ignorance or vandalism. To justify the validity of the technical suggestions they made, the authors made many measurements in the field and successfully compared the results with the theoretical values.

Andrianjafimbelo Razafinakanga presented "A Cartographic Test of Education in Madagascar." Basing it on plentiful statistical documentation collected from the Basic and Secondary Education Ministry, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, INSRE [National Institute for Statistics and Economic Research] and the University, the author studied education in Madagascar in the form of thematic maps. Beginning with documentation and analysis of the information collected and going on to the various systems of representation, he developed 15 trials or sketches of maps on the various aspects of the problem. He commented at length on the advantages offered by this new working instrument for planners or researchers. He concluded his study by giving an idea of the process of transforming a sketch into a real map.

Thursday, yesterday, two projects were presented by the Mining section. Both projects, which were accomplished in close cooperation with the technical services of the Industry Board, once more showed the close liaison between the EESP projects and the priorities of the national development plan. In fact, the study entitled "Plan for Exploiting Moramanga Bauxite," presented by Nosy Ratsimbazafy and Yves Andriambeloson fits into the big Moramanga ferro-chromium project. And the project of J. Randriamanantsoa, Aime Naivo Ramaroson and Aline Ramanantenaso was entitled "A Contribution to the Study of Beginning Exploitation of Sakoa Coal." Both of these very interesting

studies, based on available geologic data on deposits, dealt with the feasibility of mining exploitations in both cases. The candidates examined at length the technical solutions that might be adopted for exploiting said deposits. Then, after making a choice and taking into account the various economic data obtained by means of systematic investigation, they worked out an economic and financial study of the proposed exploitations. After these detailed analyses they gave estimates of cost price and product profitability. The juries discussed at length the technical and economic hypotheses, as well as the data supplied by the candidates. And after various suggestions and criticisms having to do with the pursuit of the work, they congratulated the candidates on the quality of the studies performed.

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MADAGASCAR

BRIEFS

OMIPRA RICE OPERATION--A military operation for agricultural development (production) was established and headed by the minister of defense, Sibon Guy and director general colonel Zino Paul Bert. This is a military operation whose immediate objective is to exploit 100,000 hectares of rice-fields, with Korean assistance, for a period of 4 years. This is also an operation which effectively and efficaciously solidifies the participation of our armies in the struggle to obtain our economic independence and therefore defend our revolution. Last Wednesday a meeting was held by the members (comprised of five interested ministries, the armed forces and the Zandarimariam-pirenena [as published] for the purpose of discussing the practical problems facing this operation, particularly in the matter of technical approach of the growers and the consequences which could ensue in carrying out this plan on the land. This meeting allowed the members to visit again the various spaces which have been exploited or will be developed in the cadre of this operation which started in the fivondronana of Tsiroanomandidy. It should be noted that the areas by faritany were also pointed out: for example, in Antsiranana, 27,000 hectares; in Mahajanga, 34,300 hectares; in Antananarivo, 11,300 hectares; in Fianarantsoa, 25,150 hectares, etc., are being mentioned. [Text] [Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 2 Nov 79 p 1] 7993

CSO: 4400

MOZAMBIQUE

FUTURE FOREIGN SERVICE CADRE TRAINING ENDS

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 28 Nov 79 p 1

[Text] Yesterday, when he officiated at the closing session of the first phase of the course for training cadres for the RPM's foreign affairs, Joaquim Chissano, member of the Permanent Political Committee of the FRELIMO Party's Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs, stated: "The cadres that we are training must be capable of properly representing the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Mozambican people abroad." This session was also attended by Graca Machel, member of the FRELIMO Party's Central Committee and minister of education and culture.

Participating in this course were 21 workers, 14 of whom were from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the rest affiliated with other ministries in the economic and social sectors. It should be noted that, at this closing ceremony, the participants made a donation of 1,850.50 escudos to support the defense capacity.

The subject matter of the course, which lasted for 7 months, included foreign policy, political education, state law, international law and Marxism-Leninism.

During the closing session, the participants began by delivering a message in which they made a review of the court, citing the success and the difficulties that they had encountered.

Next, remarks were delivered by Minister Joaquim Chissano, who started by commenting on the importance of these cadres to the implementation of foreign policy, stating that, without politically and ideologically trained cadres, our country would be isolated, because it could not participate in the solving of the problems of the international community.

In view of the fact that the intensification of relations of friendship and cooperation between Mozambique and other countries is not incumbent solely on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but on the party and the state apparatus in general, as well, there was a need to train cadres not only for that ministry but for the other central state organs also.

Continuing his remarks, Minister Joaquim Chissano said that, in order to overcome the difficulties that were left to us by colonialism, we must intensify our relations with other countries; and, for this purpose, it is necessary that we have cadres who are capable of representing us abroad, which is the reason that these courses were created.

He later cited the need for these cadres, who completed the first phase of their course yesterday, to continue learning by engaging in every-day work, mentioning in this respect the experience of the armed struggle for national liberation, in which many cadres did not need to attend school in order to be trained.

The participants in this course will return to their work sites and, 1 or 2 years hence, they will take the second part of the course, which consists of a total of three phases.

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CSO: 4401

MOZAMBIQUE

NATIONAL DOMESTIC TRADE MEETING OPENS

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 4 Dec 79 pp 1, 4

[Text] Since yesterday, the Third National Meeting on Domestic Trade, which will analyze the activities carried out by the sector throughout 1979 and approve the program of action for next year, has been under way in the nation's capital. One of the most important aspects of that meeting of national scope will be the analysis of the performance of tasks that were established as priorities by the second meeting, which took place last August in Maputo, citing the supply of products to the population and agrarian marketing as the principal tasks of that ministry.

Participating in the Third National Meeting on Domestic Trade, directed by Aranda da Silva, the national head of supply, are other officials from this ministry's central agencies, the provincial heads of domestic trade and guests from various sectors which operate in close association with the Ministry of Domestic Trade.

At this national meeting, the entities of the Ministry of Domestic Trade will discuss matters relating to supply, specifically, the operation of the Consumer Cooperatives, the People's Stores, agricultural marketing and commercial techniques, among others. The training of cadres and planning will also be carefully considered.

The Third National Meeting on Domestic Trade will also make an analysis of the present structure of the Ministry of Domestic Trade and its operations, with particular attention to the enforcement of the Law on Private Commerce.

Yesterday, after the opening session, which took place at about 0800 hours, the presentation and discussion of the reports from the provinces began. As each provincial head proceeded to render an account of the work accomplished all year, the participants in the meeting made their contributions, to enhance or explain certain points that were made in this regard.

Generally speaking, the provinces' reports related to both the success and the difficulties encountered in performing the established tasks. The most emphasized problem was that of removing products, due to lack of transportation and the bad state of highway communications in certain parts of our country.

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CSO: 4401

MOZAMBIQUE

PRODUCTION OF IMPROVED SEED STRAINS UNDERWAY

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 3 Dec 79 p 3

[Excerpt] In fulfillment of the economic and social directives from the Third Congress of FRELIMO regarding the need to multiply seeds of high genetic quality in order to back agricultural production in the country, the National Seed Program of the Ministry of Agriculture is engaged in producing concentrated rice seed in Chokwe, and corn and peanut seed to serve the provinces of Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo, and part of Sofala. In the central zone, corn and sunflower seed is being produced for the provinces of Manica, Sofala and Tete.

The National Seed Program, the need for which was first realized immediately after independence, started in 1977, for the purpose of aiding increased production in all areas of agriculture, by supplying seed of recognized quality. This work involves four areas of activity, namely, that of original seed production and improved strains, field production and seed processing, the marketing and distribution of seed, and quality control.

Production of Original Seed and Strain Improvement.

The production of original seed and strain improvement are tasks assigned to the National Institute of Agronomical Research, an agency engaged in the production of new varieties and the improvement of other old ones, using specialists in improving seed of various crops, such as cotton, corn and sunflowers.

At the present time, the National Seed Program has several seed production plans, namely, that for concentrated rice seed in Chokwe, and for corn and peanut seed to serve the provinces of Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo, and part of Sofala. In the central zone, corn and sunflower seed will be produced for the provinces of Manica, Sofala and Tete. The greatest activity in this campaign will be in Nampula Province, where there is a production unit and other projects, including those for cotton, corn, peanuts, sesame and sunflowers for all the provinces north of the Zambeze River. The technician from the National Seed Program also said that the Ministry of Agriculture regards those five crops as priorities in this seed production activity.

2909

CSO: 4401

CULTURAL COURSE WILL BE OFFERED IN SCHOOLS

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 4 Dec 79 p 1

[Excerpt] As part of a widespread activity aimed at greater and more intensive social integration of schoolchildren into community life, during the next school year a cultural offensive will be launched, concentrated in certain previously selected schools.

For this purpose, during the school vacations and before the academic year begins, practical courses or apprenticeships will be held to train cultural activists in the schools (both pupils and teachers), the first of which has been planned for January 1980.

Prominent among the various activities to be held in the schools in the area of culture is the preservation of historical monuments or sites which are located near the selected educational establishments, as well as tasks involving the cleaning and conservation thereof, in addition to organized study visits.

In collaboration with the National Museum and Antiquities Service, the schools selected for this purpose will form vacation brigades which, among other tasks, will encourage both pupils and teachers to acquire an increased taste for, and habit of preserving and appreciating artistic creations, particularly in their own region, as well as objets d'art and other items of historical interest.

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MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

IEPALA REPRESENTATIVE--On the morning of the day before yesterday, the president of the FRELIMO Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Samora Moises Machel, received Juan Carmelo Garcia, secretary-general of the Institute of Political Studies on Latin America and Africa (IEPALA), a group established in Spain which is dedicated to supporting the peoples' struggle for national and social liberation. The photo shows a scene of the meeting, which was attended by other party and state representatives. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 2 Dec 79 p 1]

GDR EDUCATION MINISTER--At the invitation of our country's government, the minister of higher and technical education of the German Democratic Republic, Hans Joachim Boehme, arrived in Maputo. At the Mavalane international airport, this illustrious visitor was awaited by Teodato Hunguana, the minister of justice. In making statements to the national press a few moments after his arrival, the GDR minister of higher and technical education said that the 5-day visit that he will make to Mozambique is related to the intensification of the fraternal relations between the two countries, particularly in the area of higher education. That visitor stated: "The People's Republic of Mozambique and the German Democratic Republic are united in the battle on behalf of socialism; and this is what we must consolidate. We have come once again to convey our greetings to the Mozambican people, assuring them of our solidarity." During his stay in Mozambique, Minister Hans Boehme will visit departments associated with higher education in our country, to become familiar with the Mozambican situation in this field, and to study means of intensifying the cooperation. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 2 Dec 79 p 1] 2909

CSO: 4401

DAMARA CONTROVERSY ENDS; NEW CHIEF INAUGURATED

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 18 Dec 79 p 5

[Text]

WINDHOEK — With singing, dancing, long and colourful speeches inside a virtual police cordon, the new acting paramount chief of the Damara nation, Mr Filemon Gonteb, was inaugurated at the weekend.

Mr Gonteb's inauguration at the foot of the Okombahé Mountain in Damaraland followed a week of controversy and an unsuccessful application for an urgent interdict in the Windhoek Supreme Court to stop the proceedings.

The interdict was sought by Mr Justus Garoeb, president of the Namibia National Front and leader of the Damara Council.

Mr Garoeb was the previous acting paramount chief and is said to have a large following among the Damaras. He was named as leader by a former chief, Mr Dawie Goreeb, while the latter was on his death bed.

Mr Gonteb's installation was organised by the DTA-supporting Damara

Representative Council. Mr Garoeb led a delegation to the Administrator General of SWA/Namibia, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, last week to stop the inauguration.

In a statement Dr Viljoen later said that the appointment was in accordance with a "legal decision" by the Damara Representative Council.

At the weekend, several hundred people watched as their new acting paramount chief said to be aged about 75, was inaugurated. Around them were heavily armed police with dogs, machine guns, rifles, side arms and gasmasks.

About 300 people waved placards proclaiming "we do not want an unelected chief" and "the chief is inexperienced and will not be accepted."

The peaceful demonstration was led by Mr Simon Goba, a member of the executive committee of the NNP. A police officer spoke to him and the demonstrators moved off to hold their own meeting about 400 m away.

'TEMOIGNAGES' EDITORIAL COMMENTS REPORTED

Colonel's Frank Admissions

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 13 Nov 79 p 1

[Text] It can be said to the credit of Colonel Soultrait that when he spoke to Air Force "reservists" recently, he at least was frank.

In answer to a question concerning the role of the army based in Reunion, he did not beat around the bush when stating that its mission was to ensure the French presence in the region, help maintain order in Reunion and intervene in neighboring countries if need be.

In so doing, the colonel confirmed point by point what we have said from the very beginning of the massive buildup of paratroopers and other military forces in our country.

The fears we had have now become a certainty with the colonel's admissions.

The people of Reunion must henceforth be very aware of the dangers lying in wait. In a French department, the army never helps "to maintain order." There are men whose very job is to do that. However, the army has previously intervened to "maintain order" in countries such as Madagascar, Algeria and the countries of Indochina, when all those countries were under French colonial domination. We have seen the results.

It would never occur to a French military leader to say out loud that in a given department (Hauts de Seine, Corrèze...), the army will deploy 3,000 to 4,000 paratroopers for the purpose of putting down the local population. But in a colony, that can be said and done and that is precisely the case in Reunion. All the machinery is now in place. Only the orders remain to be given.

This means that if certain election results should displease the princes governing us, they have the means to impose on the people the "elected" officials they want.

It also means that if certain demands of the workers are not to the liking of the government, it has everything it needs already in place, with a Colonel Soultrait ready to act. If the workers' actions do not please the government, it also has everything it needs to restore "order."

The Intertrade Union has therefore been warned. In good faith, it had asked for joint action and dialog in order to try to gain the government's acceptance of its just positions, but if it persists, Soultrait will replace Montpezat.

Therefore, while some prepare their arguments for discussion, others polish their weapons in the strict sense of the term so that colonial "order" will be respected.

If Colonel Soultrait wanted to demonstrate that Reunion is definitely a colony, he would not proceed otherwise, backed as he is by his 3,200 men armed to the teeth and ready to intervene.

These admissions of Colonel Soultrait, which have the merit of being very clear, should cause one to reflect, about Reunion itself but above and beyond it also.

#### Question of Agricultural Quotas

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 17-18 Nov 79 p 1

[Text] Based on his contacts with EEC circles, Paul Verges has emphasized the fact that the threat to our sugar production has been very great since the EEC Commission's decision to reduce next year's quotas.

Verges said that "the seriousness of the situation had to be measured."

However, it would appear that there are those who purposely want to minimize the problem. Nor is it a question of frightening anyone. Quite simply, it is necessary to size up the possible danger.

To try at all costs to lay worry to rest by incantations or to order custom-made statements from poorly informed persons for the purpose of concealing the truth is a criminal act that leads to a demobilization of opinion and particularly of the parties involved at a time when everyone must act.

The interests at stake are so enormous that the sugar cane producers do not have a minute to spare in demanding that the government keep its promises concerning the production objectives assigned to the Reunion people.

We know that the government is much more attentive when it is a question of the beet growers, the wine, butter and sheep producers and so on, whose interests are threatened.

Inasmuch as in the agricultural policy of the Common Market it is often fit for tat, the sugar of the overseas departments and of Reunion in particular, as we have said, risks being the subject of bargaining. We must fight so that such will not be the case.

Those that claim that everything will be settled as if by magic have reached their first negative result. Having failed, in the European Parliament, to marshal their troops in order to defend the urgency of this problem brought up by Paul Verges, the question will be debated later. With the exception of a few votes, the urgency of the question had been accepted and the planters would have had additional hope if Verges' measure were adopted.

Only a few votes were needed, we were saying, but nearly all of Pierre Lagourgue's friends were absent. Debre was absent. Sable, rightist deputy from the Antilles, was also absent.

Verges was the only representative of the overseas departments who was there to defend our seriously threatened sugar production.

He will continue to fight because all is not lost. His proposed resolution will go to the Development Commission and will then return to the European Parliament and Verges will be there for the fight.

The decision on whether or not to reduce our quota will henceforth depend solely on the French Government. To believe that it will act spontaneously in our favor without our making our viewpoint known is sheer foolishness. The French Government has already shown the workers, civil servants, planters, in a word, all our people, what "esteem" it has for us.

It is not the proper time to allow it to act as it pleases. We must fight. And this fight concerns more than just the planters.

#### Examination of Iranian Problem

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 23 Nov 79 p 1

[Text] "Wave of Islamic Fanaticism," "West Threatened," "American Public Opinion Tired of Seeing USA Flouted," "American Government Circles Increasingly Consider Military Intervention."

For 2 days, these have been the refrains heard on radio and television and the headlines in the capitalist press.

Without batting an eyelid, the France-Inter correspondent in New York told of the two "possibilities" open to the United States: bombing the Iranian oil wells or bombing the Iranian military bases.

When one adds that the United States is considering using military force to take two Iranian islands in the Strait of Ormuz to close off the Persian

Gulf, one can measure the threat hanging over peace in our region and beyond it, in the entire world.

Everything seems aimed at trying to justify before international opinion an armed intervention by the United States.

That is where the shoe pinches.

Those who wage a campaign against "Islamic fanaticism," based on its excesses and condemnable acts such as the taking of hostages, do not give a hang about the fate of the hostages or fanaticism.

When fanaticism -- no matter what kind -- is joined with the interests of the big trusts, the press keeps nicely silent or becomes an accomplice. It is significant that the Islamic uprisings against the young Afghan revolution obtain the sympathy and support of the capitalist countries.

Nor is it without purpose to recall certain truths: When the fanaticism of the Indonesian soldiers massacred hundreds of thousands of Indonesian communists, there was silence. When the highest religious authorities blessed the flags of the French and American armies which defended the values of the "Free World" with bombs, napalm and gas over Indochina, none of these gentlemen mentioned the word "fanaticism"!

when the fanatic Pinochet murdered President Allende and thousands of supporters of the Popular Unity in Chile, where were these moralists?

Naturally, a crime in one country can never justify a crime in another, but please, gentlemen! Let us look at things squarely!

What bothers you and seems intolerable is the historical significance of the events we are witnessing; the refusal of an entire nation to be kept in dependency, inferiority, scorn. A nation expresses itself with what it has, what it is. Islam is the richest heritage of the Iranian people. Why should it be surprising that the will for independence and national identity should be expressed through it?

Those who stifled the aspirations of a people should ask about their own responsibilities with respect to the development of "integrisme" [fundamentalism], the return to practices of another age.

Elsewhere in the world, the demands of the oppressed are expressed through other religions, as the problem in Ireland reminds us.

Consequently, the crux of the current problem is not religious in nature. It is that imperialism is in decline and has received a severe blow in Iran!

If one looks behind the veil of humanitarian pretexts, one finds the coffers of the multinational companies, the oil companies, the American military-industrial complex.

These people are capable of evil, great evil.

The power of their weapons is terrifying.

But the world has changed. The sound of marching boots impresses people less and less. The ranks of all those who reject the fanaticism of money are steadily growing. This should provide food for thought for those who play with fire.

11,464

CSO: 4400

MINISTER STRESSES COUNTRY'S EFFORTS FOR ISLAM

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 19 Nov 79 p 3

[Article by Cherif Elvalide Seye reporting the laying of cornerstones for four Arabic schools financed by the marabout of Segre]

[Text] The minister of National Education holding the brick, in company with the Libyan Jamahiriya in Dakar, and under the eye of the marabout of Segre El Hadj Alioune Cisse Ngouty: This is more than a beautiful picture; it is the symbol of common action. The symbol was repeated four times yesterday during Mr Abdel Kader Fall's tour of the Sine-Saleum region. This tour, starting in Ngoye and Diackhao in Fatick departments, continued in Keur Soce in Nioro department and concluded in an apotheosis in Kaffrine department.

The ceremonial for this torrid tour was the same everywhere. First Ngoye: At about 3 o'clock the long procession formed by the minister of national education and the supervisors of his department, the administrative authorities of the region and of the prefecture visited, and including also the ambassador of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and responsible political personalities, makes its entrance in this village composed of a few cabins sprawled along the road leading to Fimela. Scores of children chant religious songs. The minister of national education makes a speech in Wolof defining the meaning of this ceremony as the government sees it and expressing thanks to the two donors, El Hadj Alioune Cisse Ngouty and the Libyan ambassador, to whom we owe the four schools. Their cornerstones were being laid merely symbolically, for their construction was already well under way. The speech was then translated into Arabic for the Libyan ambassador, who responded in Arabic before his speech was translated into Wolof. Then, in a construction site already well advanced, lip service was paid to tradition: The cornerstone was laid.

In Diakhao, in Keur Soce the same ceremony was repeated. Segre, the marabout's village, broke the monotony. Religious dignitaries of the whole region were there. Marabouts even came from Casamance. The audience was much more numerous. So were the speeches.

Mr Kader Fall, after having described Segre, "radiating center of Islamic culture and good works," defined the principles guiding the government's

action in the teaching of Arabic. This action had had an early beginning, he recalled, even in the colonial period, when the Deputy Leopold Sedar Senghor had fought for the teaching of Arabic. Without wishing to enumerate all the government's actions to stimulate the teaching of Arabic, the minister of national education observed that the efforts of Senegal in support of Islam and Islamic education defy all comparison with other parts of Black Africa. That is why all gestures leading to that end are greeted with good will and gratitude. Accordingly, in the name of the chief of state and prime minister, Mr Kader Fall thanked the initiators of this generous gift and assured them of the government's support.

The ambassador of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, for his part, rejoiced at the secularism which makes the free exercise of religions possible in Senegal. He then praised Islam, that religion which makes all men, all races "as equal as the teeth of a comb," to the applause of the whole audience.

The great marabout of Segre, the last orator, thanked the government and Libya--the latter for its tireless aid, the former for its comprehension and readiness to cooperate, as illustrated by the presence of the minister of national education at these ceremonies in spite of his very busy schedule. Quite naturally, El Hadj Alioune Cisse Ngouty closed with a prayer for a perpetuation of that government.

9347

CSO: 4400

SENEGAL

SENEGAL'S DIOUF DETAILS MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECURITY

AB201225 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 20 Dec 79 AB

[Excerpt] On the problem of public disturbances which tend to undermine security, the prime minister assured the public that appropriate provisions have been made to impose severe sentences which would dissuade people from doing anything which would hamper the development of the country.

[Begin Diouf recording] Sentences concerning misappropriation of public funds ranging from 5 to 10 years are correctional and aim at guaranteeing (?constant) repression and insuring severity in the [word indistinct]. The government intends particularly to see to it that the provisions relating to the nonreversal of sentences and the nonrefund of confiscated property of convicts, are strictly applied by the competent magistrates.

On the problem of the worsening crime situation in the country, a phenomenon rightly decried by public opinion, the security services like our [name of organization not clear] set up by the provisions in the penal code of 27 March 1976, will do everything in its power to combat this plague by constant and severe repression.

On the other hand, press organizations will henceforth be asked to give more detailed information on such infringements so that public opinion will not be misled. We are asking our friends not to sensationalize and wishfully blow up such events for their own political ends.

The government is preoccupied with the protection and care of children. It is also preoccupied with public security—assassinations and child kidnapping. The cutting of heads affair is a phenomenon which has been disproportionately blown up to such an extent of an unhealthy atmosphere has been created. I want to assure you that all necessary measures have been taken to protect all men, women, children and in fact, everybody living in our country. The government, under the direction of the head of state, is not resting on its oars, but the battle in which we are engaged can only be won with the support of the whole Senegalese people. Laziness, easy life and waste are some of the most glaring signs of a society which is sliding into the easy way out. [end recording]

**SENEGAL**

**BRIEFS**

EEC AID TO SENEGAL--A total amount of 28 billion CFA francs has been earmarked as EEC assistance to Senegal. This was announced in Dakar following the visit of a planning mission of the European Development Fund (EDF) and the European Investment Bank (BEI). Of the 28 billion, 22 billion will be granted by the EDF for the implementation of national projects, and the rest will be granted by the BEI. [Text] [Paris AFP in French 1825 GMT 20 Dec 79 AB]

CSO: 4400

## SEYCHELLES

### REPORTAGE ON CRRTP GOALS

#### Seychelles Support

Victoria NATION in English 27 Nov 79 pp 1,2,7

[Text] The Commonwealth Regional Rural Technology Programme is of special appeal to us because it enshrines many of the guiding principles and attitudes which the Government of Seychelles has striven constantly to achieve since our Liberation on the 5th of June 1977.

The above identification of our rural development policies with the aims and achievements of the Commonwealth Programme was made by Dr Maxime Ferrari, the Minister for Planning and Development, yesterday morning whilst opening the five-day Review Meeting of the Programme for Asian and Pacific Ocean countries at La Beoliere Country Club.

Addressing the participants of the international meeting and their guests, including members of the Central Executive Committee of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front, Government Ministers and officials, and members of the Diplomatic Corps, Minister Ferrari then expressed our fervent support for the idea adopted by the Programme that the developing countries themselves were best equipped to identify their problems and suggest how these might be resolved, even if they did not have the means to bring about the solution.

A second principle that was cherished by Seychelles stemmed from our desire to encourage the development of close and cordial links with the countries of the region. It was unfortunate, said the doctor, that our colonial history did little to foster friendly relations between us, despite the fact that we were neighbours. Thus, he continued, it was time we started dismantling the barriers which had stood between us for centuries and instead build bridges between us to enable us to help one another and to cooperate fully with one another in the pursuit of our common endeavours.

"The fact that delegates from so many countries of the region have all gathered here today signifies that there is a unity of purpose and that the will to pool our resources and expertise in the solution of common

problems exists among us," said Dr Ferrari. He then expressed the hope that after all the deliberations of the meeting a formula would be found to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, experience and manpower between the countries of the region in furtherance of rural development.

The Minister for Planning and Development then continued: "We are convinced that there is an immense pool of talent and expertise within the borders of the region which remain to be tapped and which have yet to be tapped and which have yet to be directed to the removal of impediments which stand in the way of rural development.

Generally speaking, the technology which has been developed in one country in the region is more appropriate to other countries within the region than technology which has to be imported from other developed countries far removed from our situation..."

Turning to the specific example of Seychelles, Minister Ferrari explained that until comparatively recently, technology in Seychelles has been left to fend for itself in the sense that, though a very undeveloped form of technology, it had become a feature of our way of life and part of our culture. During the years, therefore, our traditional technology advanced by trial and error at a painfully slow pace.

The Minister said that one of the priorities given by Seychelles upon our assumption of independence stemmed from a realisation that national development could be accelerated by the adoption of modern technological methods and that the development of our rural areas had to be given an impetus by the employment and adaptation of appropriate rural technological advances evolved in other developing countries.

The fact that we were a late starter in the rural technology field would be compensated by the enthusiasm which we were bringing to the effort, and by our unwavering determination to contribute more than our fair share to the support of the Commonwealth Regional Rural Technology Programme continued Dr Ferrari.

"We may be one of the smallest independent Commonwealth states but we shall not have the smallest voice and we shall not be the least active," he said.

The Minister explained further that one of the priority tasks which he had set ourselves was the development of our outer islands and that the problems were many and formidable. However, we had come to realise that many of these problems could be leased by the application of rural technology and by the implementation of techniques developed by countries of the region represented at the meeting.

Minister Ferrari then paid tribute to the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) which operated the Programme and which, with the financial backing of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, had joined with the Government of Seychelles in co-sponsoring the review meeting.

Prior to Minister Ferrari's speech, the Canadian Science Advisory and Secretary of the CSC, Mr Christian de Laet, had welcomed Seychelles' acceptance to host what he described as a 'critical' meeting and underlined its importance to the overall development of the countries involved.

After the Minister's speech, one of the participants, Dr Thyagarajan of India, expressed a vote of thanks for the Minister on behalf of his colleagues present.

During the five days of its duration, the meeting will discuss a total of twenty projects under review and put forward by Papua-New Guinea, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Seychelles the contribution of which, a project entitled "Small Package Water Treatment Plant," will be introduced by the meeting's Chairman, Mr Maxime Fayon, the Principal Secretary in the Department of Works.

The participants' programme also includes visits to rural technology projects, the discussion of the Programme's funding and progress and of its collaboration with other agencies.

Apart from the presenters of projects, other countries attending are Mauritius, Cyprus, Fiji and Swaziland.

Representatives from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, (UNIDO) and UK Building Research are also attending.

#### Water Treatment Plan

Victoria NATION in English 29 Nov 79 pp 1, 2, 8

[Text] Apart from hosting the current Commonwealth Regional Rural Technological Programme Review Meeting for Asian and Pacific Ocean countries at La Beoliere Country Club, Seychelles' other major contribution to the conference has been the presentation, yesterday afternoon, of a rural technology project entitled "Small Package Water Treatment Plant in Seychelles."

In its introduction, the paper, put forward by Mr Paul Noad, the Director of Technical Services in the Department of Works, states that in Seychelles about 60% of the population lives in the rural areas and that in the Asia/Pacific region this figure is sometimes as high as 80%.

In most instances rural communities live in small villages of about 30 to 50 families and like everyone else they too need a potable water supply for obvious health reasons.

As distance between these small communities are sometimes substantial, an integrated system of water distribution is prohibitive because of the cost of laying long lengths of pipeline.

Thus, the best answer, according to the paper, is the small package water treatment plant which is simple and very easy to maintain.

The paper then goes on to deal with the technical aspects of the project which, although we have tried to simplify in the interest of the layman, we hope we have not watered down too much.

All three basic forms of filters used in water treatment plants can be used to treat a supply for a small community of some 50 families. For such instances Seychelles has just started to experiment with what is called a small candle type filter which is applicable only to water of very low turbidity (i.e. water that is not very muddy or full of sediment or thick) if it is not to clog up. Thus, such filters have been selected because water problems in Seychelles are generally those of colour rather than turbidity and also because of our terrain.

In the latter sense, the alternative type of filter, the slow sand filter takes up more space when the plant is being installed and in most cases where the plants are needed in rural areas, the space needed, about 10 square metres, is just not available.

To overcome the minor disadvantage of the 'candle,' a vital part, of the pressure filter susceptible to breakages and contamination during its cleaning, the supply can be chlorinated after filtration to effect sterilisation.

Anse Louis is an example of this technique which has proved most successful over the past three years.

Where sufficient land is available the slow sand filters are ideal since they remove about 90% of the bacteria in the water as well as being easily cleaned and maintained. Seychelles has much experience with this type of filter.

In the case of such relatively clean water sources as rain and boreholes, as found mostly on the coralline islands and La Digue, minimum treatment is required.

Here the water supply needs only to be cleaned and chlorinated for sterilisation although this must be closely controlled.

For communities of 100 families and more, another type of filter, the rapid gravity filter, is more ideal. In this case the flocculation of sediments (the addition of chemicals to the water to cause the rapid settlement of sediment) and filtration is required. However, the plant needs to be supervised by trained personnel for efficient operation.

Alternatively, a pressure filter of 15 cubic metres per hour can be used to serve a village community of this size.

One such plant is being installed at Quatre Bornes in the south of the island and is going to be maintained and operated by government personnel, but using local staff for the basic system operations.

In its summary, the paper states that the project report will be completed after detailed information from other participants in other countries on their experiences in this field, something which, sadly, has not been forthcoming up to now, has been received.

CSO: 4420

## SEYCHELLES

### DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC AIRLINE REPORTED

Victoria NATION in English 26 Nov 79 pp 1,2

[Text] Statistics for domestic aircraft and passengers movements to and from the Seychelles International Airport at Pointe Larue, recently released by the Directorate of Civil Aviation, show that the domestic passenger figures were greatly reduced during the past three months. However, continued the Directorate, last year's figures for the same period were suspected of being too high.

Also, Air Seychelles has had to reduce services in order to carry out major maintenance of two aircraft, reducing the number of seats available.

Reflectively the figures show that between August and September this year a total of 21,106 passengers both resident and nonresident have travelled between Mahe and the islands of Paraslin, Bird, Denis, Frigate, Plate, Darros, and, for October, Farquhar. This shows a decrease of 23.3% when compared to the 27,698 passengers who travelled the same routes during the same period last year. The number of passengers for the whole year to date also shows a reduction with 187,377 passengers. This is a decrease of 8.48% when compared to the 204,772 passengers who travelled during the same period last year.

However, the Directorate adds optimistically, the fleet should be coming to full strength during the coming season and an increase in traffic is anticipated.

As far as international passenger traffic is concerned, its continued healthy growth was reduced slightly in October due to there being only four Sundays in the month this year compared with five last year.

On the other hand freight and mail traffic continue to increase.

CSO: 4420

SEYCHELLES

BRIEFS

NIGHT NAVIGATION BANNED--Visiting yachts and charter boats are reminded that night anchorages are not allowed anywhere near the island of Mahe and other nearby ones. No night navigation is allowed between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. within 12 miles of Mahe and other islands. Daytime charters are allowed, also night anchorages in designated places such as Praslin, La Digue, Bird, Denis, Silhouette etc. In special cases, such as emergencies, permission to enter port at night must be obtained from the Port Department by radio. [Text] [Victoria NATION in English 30 Nov 79 p 4]

CSO: 4420

'POST': GOVERNMENT PROMISES MUST BE FOLLOWED BY ACTION

Johannesburg POST in English 19 Dec 79 p 12

[Editorial: "Action Is What's Needed"]

[Text]

THE usual war drums and hysterics that have become the hallmark of the Day of the Covenant celebrations, were strangely enough replaced by calls for reconciliation and new approaches of ideology by almost all the major Cabinet speakers.

This was indeed a welcome change. A far cry from the years gone by when people took solemn oaths about fighting to the last man, to preserve systems that were antiquated and patently unjust.

If indeed the Day of the Covenant speeches, following on the steps of similar sentiments over the months by the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, are an indication of positive Government action in the air, then there is a lot to be grateful for.

On the other hand, if it is a continuation of plous statements backed by evil policies, then the Government must be aware. People's expectations have been dangerously excited with promises of a better deal. If the goods are not delivered in the coming session of Parliament, then we are heading for trouble.

We suggest the following steps will in some way prove the Government's sincerity:

- Abolish the pass laws;
- Release Nelson Mandela from jail;
- Initiate a national commission, representative of all constituencies to examine South Africa's constitutional future;

- Suspend and eventually eliminate the security legislation that empowers the State to deprive people of their freedom without recourse to the courts;

- Throw out of the statute book all laws that discriminate on the grounds of colour.

These are just but a drop in the ocean. But these measures can go a long way in sending ripples of hope through the hearts and minds of South Africans.

We live in very troubled and dangerous times. We are going to need desperate and dramatic measures to turn the flow of anger, bitterness and frustration. For the sake of South Africa, it is a price worth paying.

Let us do it now.

CSO: 4420

## SOUTH AFRICA

### IMPLICATIONS FOR SA OF REMOVED RHODESIA SANCTIONS DISCUSSED

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Dec 79 p 3

[Article by Lynn Carlisle]

[Text]

**T H E** lifting of economic sanction against Rhodesia will make little short term difference in southern Africa.

But there will be more competition for markets previously dominated by South African business organisations, a greater release of Rhodesian-made goods for export and continued strict control on imports and foreign exchange.

There will be no early boom — especially if the development-sapping terrorist war continues, as many think it will.

And while the removal of sanctions will undeniably benefit two-way trade between South Africa, Malawi, Zaire and Zambia, this is not expected to be much to start with.

Rhodesia is "very small" in terms of economic output and potential compared with South Africa, Dr Johan van Zyl, executive director of the Federated Chamber of Industries said yesterday.

"Whatever happens there, is not going to be of earth-shattering importance here," he said.

The major impact of the dropping of sanctions would bring the "freeing of relations" in southern Africa, allowing the transportation of maize to Zambia, and of other goods to Zambia, Malawi and Zaire.

"Once everyone resumes normal trade relations, we could find the Rhodesians being really competitive with their good furniture, clothing, shoe and radio producing industries," said Dr Van Zyl.

He said Rhodesia had not had time to look after its replacement investment — keeping all its machinery in good running order. This would soon be rectified.

"Because of the war, a substantial part of their machinery and other capital goods must still come from South Africa," he predicted.

Mr Chris McCullagh chief executive of the Association of Rhodesian Industries said the dropping of sanctions would make a "big difference" to exports, and imports would be less costly.

Rhodesia's internal balance of payments should be favourably reflected in trade terms.

"But we are not going to leave ourselves wide open to the ravages of world inflation," he said.

"There's no question of the trade floodgates opening. Our imports will be carefully controlled and firm control on exchange regulations will continue into the medium-term until our economy gains a firm footing again."

Foreign trade missions have been covering a lot of ground in Rhodesia this year, in anticipation of sanctions being lifted.

Rhodesian industry was "very conscious" of the service rendered by South African intermediaries and direct suppliers.

He did not think anyone who had given Rhodesia "good service" during 14 years of sanctions would be "eliminated".

### Concealment

"Concealment has been costly, but now we can be more overt and we can cut expenses. We have direct access to the cheapest sources of supply," said Mr Van Zyl.

South Africa retained the advantage of being the nearest, quickest and cheapest supply route.

Increased competition from American and European suppliers, experiencing hard times, meant that South Africa would have to "sharpen up" a bit, said SA Foreign Trade Organisation's intelligence manager Mrs Ann Forrest-Smith.

"South Africans have not faced much competition this last decade, and they must be more aggressive in their marketing."

### Increase

There would be a definite increase in business opportunities in Rhodesia, although it could be slow.

In the long-term however, there would be a greater inflow of investment capital with mining — especially steel, and light industries benefiting the most.

Rhodesia's run down economy needed much reconstruction. Large-scale replacement of old machinery and industrial spares should be possible with the gradual easing of foreign exchange.

She said that any outside aid from the European Economic Community, would only be in the form of goods and equipment.

Improved transport links with Zambia, Malawi and even Zaire would make little difference to South African trade.

"We must remember their financial and economic strains — their ability to purchase. This is the major problem involving those countries," Mrs Forrest-Smith said.

A senior Railways spokesman said that SAR's rail capacity to its northern borders exceeded the moving capacities in Rhodesia and beyond.

South African harbours had spare capacity to cope with any new Rhodesian trade including containerisation.

A Rhodesian official said the country was presently "in a state of flux" and would remain so until the new government came into power next March.

Another official said the "ceasefire" was "a whole lot of words" and Rhodesians would only believe it when it happened.

The war would continue to stifle efforts to lift Rhodesia's economy out of its shattered condition, he said.

SOWETO PLANNING COUNCIL APPOINTED

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 18 Dec 79 p 1

[Text]

THE Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, yesterday appointed the Soweto Planning Council to draw up a comprehensive development plan for Soweto to submit to the Government.

Announcing the appointment, Dr Koornhof said the council was "to give effect to the Cabinet decision regarding the improvement of the quality of life of the people in the black residential areas of the Witwatersrand and specifically in Greater Soweto."

The council consists of Mr Louis Rive, the Postmaster General and chairman of the council, Mr J C Knoetze, chairman of the West Rand Administration Board, and Mr David Thebehalli, chairman of the Soweto Council. There will be two other councils for Greater Soweto as well.

The Soweto Planning Council held its first meeting yesterday and later outlined its plans for Soweto.

The council is also to review all planning to date to ensure that "it fits in with the long-term planning pattern".

After the meeting of the Soweto Planning Council yesterday, its chairman, Mr Rive said: "We realise much is to be done in Soweto and we believe the time has come for action to be taken."

Mr Rive, Mr Knoetze and Mr Thebehalli said improving housing in Soweto and electrification of the area were their top priorities. There were funds and land to start housing on a "massive scale almost immediately", Mr Knoetze said.

The council said its target was "a viable, self-sufficient and proud community."

CSO: 4420

## SOUTH AFRICA

### SLABBERT REVIEWS PROSPECTS FOR EIGHTIES

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 14 Dec 79 p 18

[Article by Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, PFP leader]

[Text]

I have never really been one to believe in inevitability when it concerns social, political and economic change.

I really believe that the decisions that people take do affect the outcome of events. A decision in favour of A rather than B does make a difference — not only to the individual who takes the decision, but also to those involved and subjected to the decision.

However, it is also equally true that people never take decisions in a vacuum — that events and circumstances narrow down the options and predisposes one to consider one range of alternatives rather than another. What will the political, social and economic options be for South Africa in the 80s?

Let us begin to speculate on this by deliberately excluding external factors: ie external military intervention; big-power manipulation; OAU politics; crises in Rhodesia and Namibia, etc. What are the internal trends and cycles that will narrow down the options for political, social and economic decision makers in the 80s?

One thing is certain, South Africans, whatever their race or persuasion, are going to have babies and they are going to need food, shelter and employment. This is a simple, elementary fact of life.

Because we know this, we also know that:

- For the next 20 years our population will grow to roughly 42.5 million. (Whites will form 12 percent of the total)

- In the same period more than 8-million workers will come on to the job market, of which 80 percent will be black.

● Annually, between 30-40 thousand skilled black workers will have to be produced to maintain a growth rate of 5 percent in the economy. (At present the growth rate hovers between 2 percent and 3 percent and a 5 percent rate is seen as essential to cope with the demands).

● Also over the next twenty years more than 4-million houses of some sort or the other will have to be built by either the Government or the people themselves.

Against the background of these basic trends one has to judge the adequacy and ability of the existing political, social and economic set-up to cope with the pressures that are going to develop. Let me highlight this with a few key questions:

1 — What is the population - land ratio in South Africa and how is this expected to change?

Concretely put: if we expect the population of Soweto to double over the next 20 years — must the people live in the same geographic area? If not, where?

Two options appear to be available either in the rural areas (a non-option on closer analysis) or in the urban or peri-urban areas. If the latter option is the one, who is going to take the decision to make more land available for residential expansion? And remember what applies to Soweto applies equally to Mdantsane, New Brighton, Garankuwa, Langa, etc. et

(2) — What are the social resources (schools, hospitals, housing, transport, community facilities) available to the individual in order to improve his/her life chances?

These social resources usually determine the quality and scope of the

labour market available to the economy. In South Africa we still have a relatively small and restricted skilled labour force. Ideally the labour force should in terms of distribution of skills have a diamond shape rather than a triangular one. If this is to be only approximated in South Africa in the 80s it will mean a radical transformation of the availability of social resources in South Africa if conflict is to be avoided.

(3) — Who controls state and private capital in South Africa? The answer is self-evident and poses fundamental problems for the economic system of South Africa in the 80s. Already there is a growing awareness in business and Government that if the majority of the people are deliberately excluded from the rewards of the economic system, economic problems will attain major political and social significance. At the same time it is also accepted that to give the majority of the people access to the rewards of the economic system would demand major social/political/economic changes.

(4) — Who at present initiates and controls the rate/tempo and extent of economic growth and development? In short where does entrepreneurial talent come from in South Africa and why?

Again the answer is self-evident. Mainly from the whites, either through the State or through private enterprise or from foreign investment. To put it differently, what was the ratio of white to black businessmen at the Prime Minister's conference on November 22? (One must feel uncomfortable in answering that one).

These four questions were of course deliberately chosen. Why? Because they basically refer to the factors of production in a free enterprise economy.

land, labour, capital and entrepreneurial talent. To judge the adequacy of our present political, social and economic set-up to cope with the pressures and trends of the 80's take each factor, ie land, labour etc and try to group the number of laws and statutes as well as social conventions which inhibit the performance of use of any factor of production.

By 1976 we had more than 400 laws and statutes pertaining to racial affairs alone. This gives some idea of the kind of change that will have to take place in order to cope with the problems of the 80s.

Another fact we do know is that all the right political decisions will not be taken to cope with the problems I have identified. Society is not like a computer that can be fed with information and have built-in checks to weed out mistakes. So, on the balance of probabilities, one has to say: given all this and given some bad and some good political decisions (and may the good ones be more than the bad ones) what will be the major sources of pressure most likely to shape political decision in the 80s. The following seem to me to stand out:

1 — Urban migration on an ever increasing scale. South Africa can try to modify, but cannot escape what the rest of the third world countries have experienced, and that is an unprecedented process of urban migration. In fact, the Homelands policy is guaranteed to escalate urban migration in the long run unless it is radically changed.

Even if one looks at the problem in terms of rural economic reform — whether labour intensive or not — it is clear that some people will have to move away from the land. One of the major problems for the 80s is going to be: How can South Africa control the social and economic consequences of urban migration?

2 — As a consequence of urban migration, problems of housing and community development will dominate in the urban areas. I have no doubt the residential face of South Africa is going to change in the 80s.

3 — Because of an almost unanimous acceptance to stimulate the economy and improve the quality of life of all population groups problems of labour and the machinery to cope with them will continually be in the forefront in the 80s. At first it will be mainly white vs black labour, but more and more it will involve labour vs Government and labour vs management.

4 — The ever increasing need for skilled labour in order to maintain a reasonable growth rate will have a profound effect on the way in which labour is trained and prepared for the economy. Consequently, a great deal of pressure is going to be exerted on the availability of training facilities as well as on problems relating to closed shop trade-unionism. The 80s will see how the social infrastructure of South Africa is going to be overhauled. For whites this may very well be the most painful area of adjustment.

These sources of pressure (and of course there are more) simply underline the fact that in many senses of the word the 80s will be a crucial decade for South Africa. One way or another the manner in which our conflict-situation is going to be resolved in South Africa will be determined by the political decisions taken during the 80s.

I have always maintained, and still do, that political decision makers in South Africa have the option of either involving all the leadership potential in our society in order to find a relatively peaceful and evolutionary solution to our problems, or else they can try to go it alone and fan the flames of revolutionary or violent change.

Political decisions will create the framework within which social and economic change has to take place. For the life of me I cannot understand how peaceful constitutional change is possible if political decisions are based on the assumption that:

- Only whites finally determine the constitutional structure for South Africa.
- No blacks can enjoy South African citizenship, and
- The individual is compelled to belong to a racial/ethnic group.

It just does not make sense, does it? I can tell you one thing though — in the 80s all this will be sorted out one way or the other and you and I and our children will feel the consequences of the decisions taken.

CSO: 4420

THOZAMILE BOTHA, OTHERS COMMENT ON FORD STRIKE

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Dec 79 p 7

[ext]

HE was trying to "internationalise" the strike of Black workers at the Ford Motor Company by involving civil rights leaders in the United States, the chairman of the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation, Mr Thozamile Botha, said in Johannesburg yesterday.

At a Press briefing on the background to the labour unrest, he said he had written a letter to Ford's parent company in the US stating the workers' grievances, but had not received a reply.

"The problems at Ford are political because they involve a Black-White clash. The trade union stayed away from the scene because of this."

Mr Botha said the workers were not prepared to be rehired as had been arranged by the union, but wanted to be reinstated. Ford had said it would only negotiate with the union, whereas the union had said it represented its members only — not all the workers.

Pledging his support of and solidarity with the workers, the chairman of the Committee of Ten, Dr Nthato Motlana, said Ford was one of the leading companies in the world, but it still discriminated in its South African factory.

"We appeal to the men who assisted with the Sullivan Code and its principles. Why the deafening

silence when these are the things the American companies should concern themselves with?"

Also pledging his support for the dismissed workers, the president of the Azanian People's Organisation, Mr Curtis Nkomo, said that like the Government, Ford talked about change, but did nothing about it. Removing apartheid signs was not the "end of the story".

He warned that those who sat back and thought the workers' problems were confined to Ford in Port Elizabeth were wrong. Steps should be taken to alert international trade unions on the situation.

The secretary-general of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Desmond Tutu, said the SACC had approached Ford's management and offered to intervene in the dispute and provide the workers with relief assistance.

"Our offer was unfortunately regarded as superfluous and we were told there was no dispute," Bishop Tutu said.

He pointed out, however, that conditions at Ford were better than they used to be and that the company's record was "on the whole admirable in the attempts they have made, but they really ought to show that we are entering a new era in labour relations." — Sapa.

## BLACK UNION ROLE IN CAPE STRIKES PRAISED

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 18 Dec 79 p 28

[Article by Siegfried Hanning]

[Text]

The confusion surrounding the Port Elizabeth strikes has concealed a crucial message — that a recognised black trade union is a constructive force.

The labour unrest would have been worse, had it not been for a black trade union.

The black union concerned is the United Auto Workers' Union.

It is noteworthy that it belongs to the Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu) — the body regarded by some as the most militant wing of the black labour movement.

It is likely that the Ford strike would have been short-lived, or might not have occurred at all, if the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (Pebo) had not been determined to assert its own power.

Pebo, which was behind the strikes, ignored the union until it was too late.

By the time the union was permitted to negotiate on behalf of the strikers, 155 of the 700 who lost their jobs had resumed work.

The union succeeded in cutting back the strikers' demands and negotiated a moratorium on the recruitment of non-strikers to replace those who had not resumed work.

But Ford insisted on rehiring the men without recognition of their past service. This meant the loss of Christmas bonuses and fringe benefits.

The company had leaned over backwards by reinstating the 700 strikers without loss of pay or benefits after their first walk out which lasted more than two days.

Ford's leniency is thought to have precipitated the subsequent strikes at two other Port Elizabeth companies. It also provoked a strike threat from the white union and statements from whites which led to fresh demands from blacks.

Ford simply found itself confronted repeatedly by all the 700 black workers of the Cortina plant. Pebco took no advantage of Ford's offer to meet Pebco representatives in the presence of the union.

Any trade unionist could have predicted the outcome, but Pebco held on.

Close to 500 men were still on strike when Ford shut down for Christmas with a warning that strikers would have to compete with all comers if they had not signed on before January 7.

Late last week the black union advised strikers to resume work while yet taking to negotiate about their grievances in the new year. It also announced that it had reached agreement with the white union on the removal of all the existing racial conflict in the company.

CSO: 4420

## FOREIGN DEMAND FOR SA COAL INCREASING

Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES-BUSINESS TIMES in English 16 Dec 79 pp 1, 1<sup>2</sup>

[Article by John Spira]

[Excerpt]

IN A dramatic turnaround on the position some years ago, overseas coal consumers are now jockeying for a slice of South Africa's 24-million ton export allocation.

As a result, coal has been sold forward as far as 1980 at prices well in excess of those ruling in the recent past.

British sources are talking of 1981 coal contracts being negotiated at around \$55 a ton against the current estimated \$30.

This means that at current export rates, South Africa could earn an additional \$480-million in foreign exchange — over and above the current annual rate of \$340-million — two years from now, after adjusting for freight rates.

Mr A A Sealy, who heads the Rand Mines coal interests, tells Business Times that coal exporters have noted a significant increase in demand in the past three to four months — principally as a result of the worsening oil situation the West is having to contend with.

This is in marked contrast to the situation some eight years ago, when local producers, because of cheap oil and an oversupply position on the local front, were forced into peddling their wares from one European power station to the next.

According to Mr Sealy, most exporters of coal have already

sold their full export allocation for 1980, while others have sold ahead for longer delivery periods.

He adds that freight rates have doubled in the past 18 months — a factor which has reduced coal export margins. The prospect of hardening coal prices in the years ahead will, however, more than compensate.

Coal exporters are understandably disappointed over the country's present inability to export more than the current 24-million tons a year. The limiting factor is the capacity at Richards Bay.

For the time being, 23-million tons — of which 2-million tons comprises anthracite — are being channelled through Richards Bay and 2-million tons are leaving the country via Durban.

It is anticipated that an additional 2-million tons will be squeezed through Richards Bay next year. But it will be five or six years before the final leg of Phase 3 of the Richards Bay expansion programme is complete.

SOUTH AFRICA

BATTERY COMPANIES BENEFITING FROM FUEL CRISIS

Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES-BUSINESS TIMES in English 16 Dec 79 p 3

[Article by Bill Cain]

[Text]

TURMOIL in Iran is giving heavy-duty battery companies the sort of boost marketing men only dream of.

Switching from dearer diesel fuel to electric traction on the mines has been even more rapid than expected.

Raylite motive-power sales manager Ken Curr says: "We predict the market to at least double in four years."

He adds that the three companies supplying the local traction battery market — which includes other vehicles such as forklifts — share R12.5-million annually.

Chloride managing director Don Searle says: "Basically I agree with Mr Curr's figures, though they might be optimistic. I'd put the present market at nearer R10-million a year."

He adds that his workforce was increased mid-year to match the new demand and "we're going flat-out."

Chloride is the market leader with around 50%, followed by Willard with about 35%. Newcomer Raylite claims 15% after two years.

"At present prices the total market next year should be R17-million. The following three years will be R21-million, R26-million and R30-million," says Mr Curr.

A Raylite survey shows there are 6 500 diesel underground locos, 5 000 of which are likely to be replaced by electric vehicles in the next five years.

Gold and platinum mines are salesmen's main targets for locos operating on two 80-volt or, occasionally, two 120-volt batteries. These cost respectively R4 000 and R6 000 each.

Coal mines have for a long time operated locos with three 120-volt batteries each costing R10 000.

The average life of a heavy-duty traction battery is, says Mr Curr, 3.5 years.

CSO: 4420

## DRAFT BILL STRENGTHENS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 16 Dec 79 p 2

[Article by Fleur de Villiers]

[Text]

### **GOVERNMENT plans to give South Africa's agricultural co-operatives sweeping new powers and privileges have unleashed a storm of protest from organised commerce and industry.**

The plans, which also punch an enormous hole in South Africa's tax laws, are revealed in a draft Bill which business leaders warned this week could wreck the alliance between Mr P W Botha and the private sector if it became law.

The Bill, which reverses recent moves to limit tax exemptions for co-operatives:

- Removes tax on unpaid surpluses (profits) and allows co-operatives to build up untaxed financial reserves.
- Enables any two people, including father and son or husband and wife, to enter into a "co-operative partnership" even if farming is not their major interest.
- Specifically permits them to funnel their entire non-farming income through the co-operative and escape all taxation.
- Permits local authorities and welfare organisations to establish these "co-operative partnerships".
- Allows co-operatives to supply any product, including imports, to Government without having to tender.
- Permits co-operatives to deal in real estate and the sale of moveable assets.
- Extends their non-member trade by 50 per cent.

Private-sector spokesmen said this week that the Bill was "nothing short of astonishing" in the light of Mr Botha's commitment to a free and competitive market in South Africa.

Drawn up by Mr Hendrik

Schoeman's Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, the draft legislation, which was intended to replace the Co-operative Societies Act of 1939, had one object — to avoid all constraints on co-operative societies, business leaders said this week.

It was also a slap in the face for the private sector, which for the last 10 years had been negotiating with Government to eliminate unfair competition from the co-operatives.

Surpluses were not only exempt from tax, but co-operatives also had access to cheap Government capital — which ~~they~~ might available at preferential rates — and were allowed to indulge in non-member trade and in the sale of "farming requisites", which could range from the farmer's toothpaste to his clothes and his car.

They would now be able to transport members' goods without having to apply to the Road Transportation Board for a permit as other road hauliers, act as debt collectors and undercut estate agents as well as every other sector of private enterprise from banks to chemists to motor dealers.

Co-operatives have always had the advantage of the "co-operative lien", which gives them preference over all other creditors, including banks, enjoyed secrecy in their financial dealings and had the ability to force farmers to deliver their entire crop to them, rather than to use other agents.

Spokesmen for organised industry and commerce were unwilling to comment on the issue while they were negotiating with Government for substantial changes to the Bill.

Informed sources, however, said that it had severely shaken faith in the Government's commitment to the free market.

CSO: 4420

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

MUSLIM SUPPORT FOR KHOMEINI--Many Muslims in South Africa have pledged their support for the Ayatollah Khomeini and the Iranian revolution. This came to light at a mass rally at Lenasia on Friday night when more than 300 people turned up to show solidarity with the people in Iran. The "Muslim Solidarity Rally," organized by the Lenasia branch of the Muslim Youth Movement, pledged unequivocal support for the Ayatollah Ruhullah Khomeini and the revolution. Fifteen Muslim organizations in South Africa, including the powerful Jamaatul Ulama of Natal and the Soweto Muslim Association, sent messages supporting the Ayatollah and the Iranian people. [Excerpt] [Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 10 Dec 79 p 3]

TITANIUM DEMAND--A sudden upswing in world titanium markets during 1979 is smoothing the way for the R250-million Richards Bay heavy minerals project's buildup to full production. Titanium slag is the main product produced by the Richards Bay Iron and Titanium (Pty) (RBIT), which faced heavily oversupplied markets as it started producing at the end of 1978. Price levels for its products were reported early this year to be averaging 15% lower than the 1976 levels when the project was announced. Processing difficulties further compounded the problems faced by RBIT--the most expensive new mining project in South Africa. When full production is reached in 1980 RBIT will be the world's biggest beach sands mine. Estimated output is: rutile 56,000 tons, zircon 115,000 tons, titanium slag 399,000 tons and low manganese pig iron 217,000 tons. Shareholders are Union Corporation (30%), Quebec Iron and Titanium (40%), Industrial Development Corp. (20%) and the SA Mutual (10%). [Excerpt] [Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES-BUSINESS TIMES in English 16 Dec 79 p 2]

CONSOLIDATION EXPENDITURE CRITICISM--The Government's plans to spend R2,000-million on homeland consolidation would have dubious political advantages, an editorial in the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut magazine says. The editorial questions whether spending R2,000-million on consolidating KwaZulu and Ciskei into two or three areas would fundamentally improve South Africa's case internationally. The editorial also hits out at the Government's decentralization policy which, it says has led to greater black unemployment. "Would our economic and political position in southern Africa not be appreciably strengthened by spending R2,000-million of our own capital, with foreign loans, on Sasol 4, which would make us independent of imported crude oil, in comparison with capital losses on consolidation, with dubious political advantages," the editorial asks. [Text] [Johannesburg THE STAR in English 14 Dec 79 p 4]

**SURPLUS COAL PRODUCTION**--Duiker Exploration in the Lonrho group, was forced to dump nearly 400 000 tons of saleable bituminous coal or 13 percent of its saleable production last year because mine productive capacity was at all times in excess of market requirements. In the Duiker annual report, chairman Syd Newman says: "As far as possible this coal is dumped in such a manner as to allow its recovery if a market for it develops within a reasonable period, but the potential loss of marketable coal on this scale in the context of the current energy situation is obviously cause for concern." [Excerpt] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 14 Dec 79 p 22]

**SADF EXPLANATION ON OBJECTORS**--A defence force spokesman yesterday explained that no special concessions had been made for members of the Seventh Day Adventist church who are being excused from combat duties during national service. He said that the Defence Act of 1967 provided for any bonafide member of a church body whose teachings prohibit members from making war, to serve in a noncombatant unit, such as the Medical Corps. He was reacting to reports that, after discussions between the Minister of Defence, Mr P. W. Botha and leaders of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, members of the church doing national service, will not be forced to bear arms. Jehovah's Witnesses reject any kind of military service and are jailed for their refusals. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 14 Dec 79 p 13]

CSO: 4420

TANZANIA

BRIEFS

FRG CANCELS DEBT FOLLOWING AGREEMENT--The FRG has cancelled a 1.5 billion shilling debt owed by Tanzania. According to an agreement concluded by the two countries today, the FRG, through the Bank of Economic Construction [AFW], will waive amortization payments totalling 1.5 billion shillings plus interest payments and commission charges. Further details of the deal will be made in a separate agreement to be concluded between the government of Tanzania and the German bank. [Text] [LD271910 Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 1600 GMT 27 Dec 79 LD/EA]

CSO: 4420

UPPER VOLTA

REPORTAGE ON SNEAHV, CSV STRIKE ACTION

Trade Unions Strike Warning

Ouagadougou L'OBSERVATEUR in French 28-30 Sep 79 p 12

[Text] We have received the following from National Bureau of SNEAHV (National Trade Union of African Teachers in Upper Volta):

Comrades:

In a letter dated 13 September 1979 and addressed to the President of the Republic, with copy to the Minister of Civil Service and Labor, the Voltan Treasury Agents Trade Union (SATV), Voltan Customs Officials Trade Union (SDV), Taxes and Estates Agents National Trade Union (SNAID), the Financial Administration Personnel Trade Union (SYNPAF), the General Administration Personnel National Trade Union (SYNPAG) and the Voltan Technicians and Workers Trade Union (STOV), all of them base trade unions of the CSV [Voltan Trade Union Confederation], submitted under the aegis of the latter, a strike notice to be effective as of 2 October 1979 according to the following schedule:

1. From midnight 2 October 1979 to 2400 hours on 4 October 1979;
2. From midnight, 5 November 1979 to 2400 hours on 14 November 1979;
3. From midnight on 10 December 1979 on, unlimited.

This strike shall not be a general strike of the CSV, for which reason it involves only the basic trade unions signatories to the notification.

The SNEAHV and, specifically, its members, is not affected by this strike. Consequently, for the time being at least, it shall not follow this action.

However, in accordance with its basic principles, the SNEAHV, as a mass organization, has been, and remains, morally supportive of the trade unions involved in the present action aimed at the satisfaction of their specific claims.

Awaiting the new year's memorandum, the national bureau offers to all members its best militant wishes for the 1979-1980 year.

Yours in the trade unions, for the National Bureau,

H. B. Ouedraogo, Secretary General

**Passek-Taale Comments**

Ouagadougou L'OBSERVATEUR in French 28-30 Sep 79 pp 10-11

[Excerpt] To all workers:

Comrade worker, starting with December 1975 you formulated clearly and unequivocally the problem of the degradation of your living and working conditions and of improving the management of public affairs.

The GRN [National Renewal Government], under the presidency of General Lamizana has ignored this. Through your 17 and 18 December 1975 action, while refusing to enroll in the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement], you wanted to put an end to the way in which the GRN and General Lamizana were managing the affairs of the country.

At that time you were calling for radical and profound change. That same General Lamizana used this occasion to engage in juggling to produce for you a Third Republic, rallying around him all reactionary politicians, this time divided into a "majority" and a "minority."

At that point systematic theft and waste of public money were resumed shamelessly.

Once again, on 20 and 21 March 1979, you brought to mind, through your action, that you were still expecting a radical and profound change which, in your case, would mean improvements in living and working conditions, and of the management of public affairs.

However, General Lamizana and his "democracy," and Third Republic, government, majority, and minority, not only decided, more than ever, to govern us as before, but even to consider you a trouble maker, a subversive.

Then, in May 1979, they arrested your trade union leaders and comrades and it took you a week of struggle to free them and to force General Lamizana, his Third Republic, his government, and his parliament, to abandon for the time being your enlistment.

At the outcome of this struggle which lasted one week you formulated an urgent claim: A 25 percent increase in your purchase power based on price increases.

Far more concerned with his political juggling, General Lamizana abused your patience by sending you to a commission which does not exist, for it has not met for the past 20 years.

With your 5 September 1979 open letter to General Lamizana, you proved to him that you were watching the management of public affairs.

When you clearly formulate your claims and clearly pose national problems, the government of the Third Republic and its supporters charge you with playing politics and with being pushed and manipulated, but by whom?

Comrade worker, do you want to be governed as before, in the old way? Comrade worker, do you want to live as before in misery and scorn? Your only solution for putting an end to this is to struggle, to struggle with courage and determination, this time to the end, to mobilize yourself and those around you. Be ready to answer at any moment the call of your trade union organization.

J. Emmanuel Ouedrago, CNTV [National Confederation of Voltan Workers]

Soumane Toure, CSV [Voltan Trade Union Confederation]

D. Boniface Kabore, OVSL [Voltan Organization of Free Trade Unions]

#### Weekly Review by Mam-Ti-Fou

Ouagadougou L'OBSERVATEUR in French 1 Oct 79 p 6

[Commentary by Mam-Ti-Fou]

[Text] This week, Mam-Ti-Fou heard:

Echoes of a mobilization meeting organized last Friday by the Voltan Trade Union Confederation in support of the test of force against the government launched by the SATV, SDV, STOV, SNAID, SYNPAF and SYNPAG for the integration of some of the members, the reclassification of others, and the raising by two grades workers of A1 category.

In his usual way, Soumane Toure, secretary general of the CSV, who officiated at this trade union mass, began by presenting the claims. He then undertook to refute the arguments submitted by the General-President in his soapy statement made to the press following his return from the Lome quadripartite summit meeting. Answering the charge of refusing the dialogue suggested by the chief of state, he emphasized that the trade union members were totally unwilling to engage in the dilatory maneuvers of the government. As to the president's claim that "when one belongs to an underdeveloped country one cannot engage in trade unionism in the

spirit of a developed country, the secretary general of the CSV recalled that in 1966 Upper Volta was an underdeveloped country and that it was thanks to the action undertaken at that time by the trade unions that General Lamizana was able to become chief of state; and that in December of 1975 Upper Volta was still underdeveloped, and that it was, yet once again, thanks to the trade union struggle, that the current institutions were set up. This argument was rejected by Soumame Toure who said elsewhere that, essentially, wherever people feel themselves bullied and exploited, even in a developed country, they have the right to struggle to improve their living conditions. As to the general's point of view, according to which "the trade union members have not only rights but obligations as well. . . one is not a member of the union only to make demands," the chairman of last Friday's meeting pointed out that the chief of state would do better by beginning to fulfill his pledge made in the course of the last electoral campaign and promote this change. Instead of making changes, the CSV secretary general said, waste and misappropriation of public money and various malpractices are being most actively pursued. He then asked the large audience to judge for itself whether it was the general or the trade unions who are not fulfilling their duty.

Answering the warning of the general addressed against those who might think that "one must break in order to rebuild," Toure said that it was rather the chief of state who was trying to divide the country through familiar methods. . . .

Finally, commenting on the statement by the general-president, which stated that "each one of us has had the time to become acquainted with the house and leave something which would benefit our children," he ironically stated that General Lamizana has been at the head of the country for 13 years. At that rate, he asked, how could anyone else in fact tour the house.

Mam-Ti-Fou has learned that Soumame Toure, CSV secretary general, has received his "last warning." The reason stated is presumed and repeated unjustifiable absenteeism. It even appears that pure and simple licensing of SONAR [National Mining Exploration Company]. Others may have suggested the taking of gradual steps. This sounds strange considering that it is beginning with. . . .a last warning.

#### Trade Union Strike Mounted

Ouagadougou L'OBSERVATEUR in French 30 Oct 79 pp 1,7

[Text] As of yesterday several important sectors of the Voltan administration have been paralyzed by a 48-hour strike conducted by six base trade unions members of the Voltan Trade Union Confederation (CSV).

Specifically, it affects the following:

- the Voltan Treasury Agents Union (SATV);
- the Technicians Trade Union;
- the Voltan Customs Officials Trade Union (SDV);
- the Voltan Technicians and Workers Trade Union (STOV);
- the Taxes and Properties Agents National Trade Union (SNAID);
- the Financial Administration National Trade Union (SYNPAF); and
- the General Administration Personnel National Trade Union (SYNPAG).

As we wrote in our 2 October 1979 issue, the leaders of the involved trade unions met with the chief of state on the eve of the strike, at 1700 hours.

No official communique was issued on the meeting. We know now, however, that it failed to diffuse the movement, since the strike is on.

Generally well informed sources have stated that in the course of the talk, attended by the prime minister and the minister of civil service and labor, the chief of state charged the trade unions in question of having unilaterally broken the dialogue whereas the government had submitted specific suggestions they did not deign to examine. It is said that he also emphasized the difficult economic situation and national policy, and discussed the democratic and trade union freedoms and the way they were being used.

"If you favor a dialogue we shall meet again," he is said to have concluded.

According to the same sources, the trade unions are said to have answered yesterday with an open letter submitted to the chief of state.

In that letter they emphasized that it was the minister of civil service and labor himself who had informed them with a letter dated 18 September 1979 of the rejection of their claim in the following terms: "This claim could not be the subject of any exceptional measure without violating the laws and regulations applicable to state personnel. I have the honor to inform you that the government supports the principle of exclusively professional examinations and competitions meeting the specific statutes and rewarding the most deserving efforts of the candidates."

On 26 September 1979 the minister resumed the dialogue submitting on behalf of the government specific proposals whose specific nature we have been unable to determine.

Two days later the trade unions submitted counter proposals which could be summed as follows:

1. Integration of temporary and permanent agents within the regular civil service personnel;
  - First, second, and third category agents to D2;
  - Fourth and fifth category agents to D1;
  - Sixth category agents to C2;
  - Seventh category agents to C1;
2. Reclassification to second scale of the superior category of agents currently graded D-C and B;
3. Promotion by two grades for A1 agents;
4. Organization of professional examinations for scale 1 of each category.

The trade unions who signed the letter stipulated that the government has still not answered these proposals and that it prefers to broadcast that its proposals have not been answered.

The trade unions, therefore, disclaim responsibility for the breakup of the dialogue which they claim to be ready to resume on the basis of their platform.

How was the strike honored on this level?

At the time of this writing no communique by the Ministry of Interior and Security had reported on the extent of the movement.

In all likelihood it seemed to have been extensively honored.

In any case, the CSV center seemed, yesterday, to be satisfied with the rate of participation which appeared to have set an absolute record in some sectors.

The same sources provided the following information:

- Ouagadougou: Complete participation except for the treasury where trainees were present in the evening;

- Bobo-Dioulasso: Good participation except for the Prefecture;
- The posts and telegraph counter was the only one in operation at the customs-railroad station;
- Koudougou: Full participation;
- Banfora: Not good in the general administration;
- Ouahigouya: No-show of approximately five percent.

The same applied to Fada.

Finally, let us note that the minister of interior and security summoned and received yesterday in his office all the Prefects of our country. Nothing official has yet leaked out of that meeting but it appears that he repeated to the representatives of the central authority in the departments the loyalist slogans which Gen Lamizana had already given on Monday 1 October 1979 to the services directors (see L'OBSERVATEUR of 2 October 1979).

#### Equal Treatment by Information Sources

Reporting on last Monday's meeting between the chief of state and the cadres, we took a precaution to specify that the event had taken place behind closed doors.

We did this to prevent eventual blank spots on our newsprint.

A number of participants in said meeting who had noticed within the palace some of our journalists remained quite skeptical concerning our claim and doubt the effectiveness of the closed doors session.

In all objectivity, we must reassert what we already wrote on the subject: It was truly something conducted behind closed doors and our journalists as well as the AFP representative were politely sent off prior to the beginning of the ceremony.

However, it would be even more accurate to say that the closed doors seemed to have applied only to our paper and the AFP. Both the radio and information services were, in fact, represented by two journalists who represented the directors of the two services. Unquestionably, it was their presence that led some to think that the press as such had been admitted.

DUNIA as well had access to the information source, for it is, in fact, edited by four directors who attended the meeting by virtue of their

position. The proof lies in the detailed description of the event it gave.

Actually, it is a question of equal access to information sources which is raised here. Such equality is also one of the indispensable stipulations of the freedom of the press.

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CSO: 4400

UPPER VOLTA

BRIEFS

ADB LOAN TO UPPER VOLTA--Abidjan--On 14 December, at the African Development Bank (ADB) headquarters here in Abidjan, Mr F. O. O. Sogunro, vice chairman of the ADB, and his Excellency Jean-Baptiste Kafando, Upper Volta ambassador to the Ivory Coast, signed a loan agreement according to which the African Development Fund (ADF) is to grant a 1,443.3 million CFA franc loan to Upper Volta. The loan will help that country finance a project of water control and integrated rural development in the Sahelian zones of Thiou and Kougny. The loan is to be repayed in 50 years, including a 10 years grace period. The project consists of the building of 2 earthen dams at Thiou and Kougny which will supply water to the population and the livestock and will irrigate small farms downstream from the dams. It also includes plans for an immunizations center, veterinary offices and storage facilities. The ADF loan will serve to finance all the foreign exchange costs of the project and 79.3 percent of the local costs. This loan constitutes the ninth activity of the bank's group in Upper Volta. [Text] [Abidjan Information-- publication of the Agence Ivoirienne de Press--in French 17 Dec 79 p 4 AB]

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